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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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TO OUR READERS.

IT has been our practice—which, although sometimes inconvenient, we are nevertheless reluctant to discontinue—to come before the curtain at the beginning of each year, and make our best bow to our readers, in wishing them "A Happy New Year." Our thanks are due to them, prospectively as well as retrospectively, for the favour which we anticipate as well as for the favour that we have enjoyed. Another year has been swallowed up in the past. Another year opens to us in the future. So far as our intentions go, that which has been may be regarded as a pledge of that which will be. As to results, we must leave them to the disposal of the same Unerring Mind which has guided them hitherto, and which is able to bring strength out of weakness.

It seems to us that the year which commences to-day will give full scope for all the service which it is possible for this journal to perform. By dint of unflagging perseverance, frequently through times of pleasurable excitement, oftener than has been agreeable through wearisome labours, we have prosecuted the object to which we originally devoted ourselves for now something better than thirty years. It has been our happy lot to witness the gradual ripening of the public mind for the accomplishment of that object, until it has reached an advanced state of preparedness, capable, at any time, of yielding its final legislative fruits. The *Nonconformist* will always rejoice in the recollection that it was, for some considerable period, the first in the field to advocate systematically, and week by week, the principle of Religious Equality. It takes no further credit to itself than this, that what it has attempted to do for the promotion of the ends for which it was established, it has striven to do both as a pleasure and a duty. Time was when it laboured alone, and now it is but one of a goodly fellowship of labourers; but, of course, it would not have been qualified to do the measure of work which it has done in furtherance of the principles which it specially represents but for the countenance and support given to it by its readers. To them we offer heartiest thanks.

We begin a new year with the present number. We shrink from holding out any promise of what we may find ourselves unable to perform. Our readers, perhaps, will admit that during the latter part of 1872, the *Nonconformist* has undertaken—for their sakes, and for the sake of the cause to which they are attached—a sufficiently difficult, laborious, and costly enterprise. Of course, it is not every year that such additional work will be called for, or rendered. But, perhaps, it may not be taken amiss if we engage that the same spirit which has put into the hands of our readers the Statistical Supplements, which seem to have been so timely, will watch for, organise, and complete, any further enterprise within the limits of its own powers, and likely to supply desired information.

We frankly make known our wish to receive all the co-operation which our friends can give us. We and they are fighting a very up-hill battle. We are getting into the very heart of the contest. Much more might be done than is done, if all would make a point of availing themselves to the utmost of the instrumentality fairly within reach. It is not, however, our habit to sing the praises of our own journal, and we will not now begin so questionable a practice. That our work should be recognised by our friends as worth *their own* attention is, of course, extremely agreeable. That it should be thought by them worth commending to the notice of *their friends* would be doubly delightful. The moral influence of this paper increases in a progressive proportion to the extent of its circle of readers. The character of the times demands from each one of us some pledge of fidelity to the great principles we profess; and perhaps, no pledge can be more easily, and, at the same time, more usefully, given than by supporting the political and literary organs by which those principles are expounded and enforced.

Almost unconsciously we have got upon ground which we feel ourselves impelled to tread upon as lightly as possible. But this personal conference with our readers, on the first Wednesday of every year, invites us to speak freely. We have done so, and now we take our leave of them for the ensuing twelvemonth, with a prayer both for them and for ourselves, that, in all things right, God may speed us.

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE BURIALS BILL.

WHEN Mr. Osborne Morgan, the hon. member for Denbighshire, towards the close of last Session, was choused—for we can find no more appropriate term for the Parliamentary transaction—by partisan tactics of rather an unscrupulous character out of the reasonable prospect he had of sending his Bill for amending the Burial Laws up to the House of Lords, it was generally felt that to pass a measure so hotly controverted, exceeded the powers of any private and unofficial Member of the House of Commons. If any man could have accomplished the task, he was about the best qualified to do so. His ability was not only conspicuous, but was freely acknowledged on the other side. His zeal was unremitting. His vigilance seized upon every opportunity that could be detected for pushing forward his measure in Committee. Clause by clause he had won his way through the most important provisions of his bill, and was defeated at last, in the early hours of the morning, by a sudden and simultaneous irruption of its opponents. The result was that a memorial to the Government, subscribed by a large number of Liberal Members, was forwarded to Mr. Gladstone requesting that a bill to the same effect should be brought before the House of Commons next session on Ministerial responsibility. We understand that a reply to that memorial has recently been given by the Premier. Its substance is that, looking to the pressure of public business which the Government will have on hand next session, he is unable to accede to the request of the memorialists.

We have no hesitation in accepting Mr. Gladstone's excuse as valid. We have no doubt that his programme of business will prove to be sufficiently ample for the working power of the Lower House. It might have been consolatory if he had intimated in his reply the smallest intention, or even desire, to take up this question for settlement as soon as he could see his way to deal with it effectually. Perhaps, the omission was merely an inadvertency arising out of the enormous demands upon his time and labours. Mr. Gladstone must not be surprised, however, if a large number of men scattered over the country, who take a deep and painful interest in the removal of what appears to them to be an injustice and a grievance, interpret his refusal to propound a remedy, as an indication of slight regard towards the feelings of his own supporters—an interpretation the correctness of which will be looked upon as corroborated by the accession to the Ministry of the present Lord Chancellor. The matter is regarded as of comparatively minor importance by the steady adherents to the cause of disestablishment and disendowment. But there are multitudes of men who do not practically conform to the Church of England, but who have not yet persuaded themselves to stand upon the broad basis of the Liberation Society, who will feel themselves aggrieved by the Premier's decision, and who are likely enough, during the next few months, to arrive at the conclusion that there is no chance of getting the lesser matter settled, but through the legislative adoption of the greater one.

For ourselves, we cannot pretend to regret very keenly the position which the Government has taken in respect of this grievance. It will leave our hands unfettered and free for action in enforcing upon the Legislature the principle of complete religious equality. It clears the ground from what might have proved an occasion of embarrassment, and an excuse with some for divided efforts. To us it has been clear for some time past that the overthrow of clerical supremacy in our parish churchyards, would demand almost as much political strength as the subversion of the Establishment itself. When the bill was first introduced, many of us—perhaps most of us—were under the pleasing illusion that, with some modifications, it would be suffered to pass quietly through both Houses of Parliament. Subsequent experience has taught us that the exclusiveness of the clergy in relation to the burial of the dead in parochial churchyards is cherished with too tenacious a pride to be yielded up except to the sternest necessity. When Mr. Disraeli, therefore, proclaimed resistance to the further progress of Mr. Morgan's bill as a foremost item in the Conservative programme, we were convinced that it could only be carried by the authoritative influence of the whole Liberal party headed by the Government. As there seems to be little prospect of securing such an advantage, the question will naturally

occur to Liberationists whether it will be worth their while to exhaust their energies in further prosecuting, during this Parliament at any rate, the removal of this grievance. We shrink from recommending a hasty decision. There is something to be said, no doubt, on the other side of the question. But we find it impossible to resist an impression that, seeing the magnitude of the work that is before us, the more simply, exclusively, and entirely we give ourselves to its accomplishment the more likely we shall be, not only to promote its progress, but even, at no very distant period, to achieve all that we want in regard to the burial of our dead.

THE PREMIER AS AN ECCLESIASTICAL CONSERVATIVE.

MR. GLADSTONE'S speech when delivering the prizes at the Liverpool College on the 21st ult. is, in some respects, a curious illustration of the extent to which he still combines ecclesiastical and religious Conservatism with an ever-growing Liberalism in politics. The College itself is a monument of the hostility cherished by a large section of English society to the principle of united secular and separate religious instruction. In 1835 a large building was erected in an opposite quarter of Liverpool for the purposes of a mechanics' institute; and with the institute was incorporated a system of schools adapted to the needs of the middle and lower classes. These schools were wholly secular, and were supported mainly by the representatives of the advanced Liberal party in the town. We have every reasen to believe that, notwithstanding the absence of any doctrinal religious instruction, the teaching was always characterised by a high moral tone—a remark which we may confirm by noting that our statistical opponent, the Rev. Dr. Hume, was for a time one of the most important and popular masters. At the opening of this building Lord Brougham made a great speech, in which he spoke of the "vast and rapid and resistless course which we are making daily and hourly in improvement; showing a strength, a might, and a force which sweeps away and prostrates in the dust all those puny obstacles raised against its progress by the intrigues of courts and their tyranny—by the persecution of bigots and their intolerance—by the sordid and base interests of the privileged few, be they monopolising companies or overgrown and bloated establishments." In a town with the Conservative leanings of Liverpool, it was not to be expected that such an institution could remain long without a rival. The admirers of "our glorious constitution in Church and State," regarded these schools as a bane, against which it was their bounden duty to provide an antidote. Accordingly, in 1840, the first stone was laid of the present Liverpool College, one of the fundamental principles of which is that education must be based upon religion, understanding thereby the doctrines and formularies of the Church of England. On laying the stone, the late Lord Derby, then Lord Stanley, who, it would seem, had already recoiled from the Radical tendencies of his youth, delivered a speech, in which he declared that the supporters of the institution "warred in the first instance with ignorance and infidelity," but also against "that minor but not unimportant evil, the prevalence of dissent from the Established Church." The institution being raised by voluntary contributions, the supporters had of course a perfect right, however much we may doubt the wisdom of the proceeding, to identify their enterprise with the sectarian interests of the Established denomination. And in justice to them we must remember that the principle of the conscience clause was substantially adopted, and we believe, frankly carried out. We only note the avowed purpose of the institution, as giving a special and curious interest to the recent speech of our great Liberal Premier.

When the Liverpool College was opened thirty years ago, in the absence of Lord Stanley the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, then the rising hope of the Conservative party, delivered a kind of inaugural address, in which he spoke of the new schools as "a living and permanent testimony to a great indestructible principle, namely, that education, if it is to be valuable, if it is to deserve its name, must be a religious education; and that in order to deserve the name of a religious education it must be founded, not upon those vague generalities which are supposed to be common to all men, or at least to all men who assume the name of Christians, but upon the definite revelation which it has pleased God to give, and by which each man amongst us must hope to stand or fall." With these words, apart from the interpretation necessitated by the circumstances under which they were uttered, we need scarcely say that we ourselves fully agree; and we are persuaded that this agreement would be endorsed by our readers and supporters. But of course it was an understood thing that "the definite revelation which it has pleased God to give" meant in effect the doctrines and formularies of the English Church, and that instruction therein to be of any value must needs be given in the same building and in the same school-hours as secular knowledge.

And now, after more than a quarter of a century, the man who has in obedience to sincere conviction traversed the whole round of political opinion, almost to the opposite extreme, who has disestablished the Irish Church, who has disappointed the hopes and broken the hearts, or roused the envenomed malignity, of his former aristocratic associates, comes back to the same platform, and delivers a speech which shows that, as far as the ecclesiastic politics of England are concerned, he has forgotten nothing and learned, if possible, less. True, the occasion was not political. But it is impossible for so sincere and earnest a speaker as Mr. Gladstone to avoid showing where his heart lies. And in almost every sentence of this speech there are manifest symptoms that of the two lines of educational policy represented by the two Liverpool institutions, the Liberal Premier's most heartfelt sympathies are entirely engrossed by that which is pervaded in its whole direction and aims by ecclesiastical Conservatism. He remembers evidently with intense gratification that the institution he adorns by his presence "was to be an institution having religion for its centre and its base—and that religion was to be the religion of the Church of England." "That the National Church is not in less esteem now than it was then (in 1840) with the nation," he tells us, "the immense increase alike of her fabrics and of her ministrations may sufficiently show." He rejoices, too, that following a policy which threatens to make the head mastership of other and more properly public schools the vested right of the priesthood, a chapel is to be erected within the precincts of the college. He tells us that Unitarians, Jews, and Roman Catholics make free use of the schools; that even one-fourth of the pupils are aliens from the Church of England:—and yet on a public occasion, when all are gathered together, he does not hesitate to insist with emphasis on dogmas repugnant to the conscientious convictions of a considerable portion of the school, but which, they are assured, are "the cardinal and central truths of our religion." No doubt they are; from our own point of view as well as Mr. Gladstone's. But we can only wonder with unmeasured amazement that a man whose sense of justice in secular politics is so keen, should imagine a one-sided arrangement such as he commends and illustrates as at all likely to promote the interests of the truth he loves.

How are we to account for the bewildering inconsistency between the Premier's courageous Liberalism in worldly matters, and his timid Conservatism in things that pertain to God's everlasting kingdom? If in secular things justice is the only true expediency, surely much more is this the case in regard to that kingdom which is first of all "righteousness," before it is "peace and joy." But we fear we must gather from the recent speech, interesting and beautiful as it is in many respects, that the immense strain on the Premier's time and powers leaves him neither leisure nor energy to look all round and through religious or ecclesiastical questions, as he does when national finance or Parliamentary reform is concerned. He tells us, indeed, of the dangers which attend avowed independence of formal belief; but he is apparently blind altogether to the far worse dangers of that disingenuous license which adopts the formula, and strains it to mean anything or nothing. He is solemnly eloquent on the wild speculations of a foreign writer; but he is altogether unmoved by the plague nearer home of a Church which is paid to teach a Protestant religion, and takes advantage of its position to teach rationalism in one direction and Romanism in another. But, after all, the Premier, though he speaks of "the melancholy privilege of age," is comparatively young for a statesman. And should he retain life and vigour, as we devoutly hope he may, to the age of Lord Palmerston—especially should some intervals of leisure be afforded him from the cares of state—his faculty for continued growth is such that we by no means despair of seeing him crown his career of beneficent reform by bringing in and carrying a bill for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Episcopalian and Presbyterian Churches.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

IT is satisfactory to see the way in which members of Parliament, one after another, are expressing their views on the Church Establishment question; and it is still more satisfactory to notice that, for the most part, this is done spontaneously. Nearly all through the autumn there has been a running fire of Parliamentary speeches upon this subject. It is difficult to state their general tendency. Some members have expressed their disapproval of the proposal for disestablishment; others their emphatic approval of it; but there has been a third party whose speeches have been the most significant, and at present, probably, this is the largest party of all. Mr. Horsman, the other day, in his address at Liskeard, fairly represented their state of mind. Mr. Horsman has hitherto abstained from voting, because, as he said, the question was "not yet ripe for decision." Nevertheless, "disestablishment was, sooner or later inevitable," and "*whenever*," &c., "his vote would be in the affirmative." All great questions go through this Parliamentary history, being supported, year by year, by increasing numbers of those who think that the "whenever" is rapidly approaching, and that, therefore, they had better at once take the popular side.

Amongst other Parliamentary representatives, Mr. Dent and Sir Harcourt Johnstone, members for Scarborough, have just met their constituents. Mr. Dent does not appear to have referred to the question of disestablishment, but Sir Harcourt Johnstone met it very frankly. Sir Harcourt appears to be a little before, and yet a little behind, Mr. Horsman. He believes in disestablishment in theory, and would not think, if the case were now first proposed, of allying the Church with the State. That is more than Mr. Horsman said. But Sir Harcourt went on to say that the measure was "greatly in advance of public opinion in this country," though the time "*might* come when it would be thought that the Church should govern itself." This is behind Mr. Horsman, for Mr. Horsman not only thinks it may, but that it will come. Now these rather hesitating and negative utterances did not satisfy the constituents of Mr. Dent or Sir Harcourt Johnstone, and so, when a vote of confidence in them was proposed, an amendment was moved thanking them for their services, but, at the same time, expressing disapproval of their votes in favour of the union of Church and State, the Rev. Mr. Balgarnie doing this in a courteous but courageous speech. The amendment was carried by a large majority, for as will be seen, a correspondent affirms that this Liberal constituency, nineteen-twentieths of whom are Nonconformists and Anti-State Churchmen, begin to see the incongruity of their being represented by two members who vote against their most cherished convictions. We all ought to thank these gentlemen for the stand they have taken and for the position which they have brought to light. If others will imitate them, the next general election will be even more encouraging in its results than we have hitherto suspected.

We read in the *Liberator* of this month a cheerful article on the "Old and the New Year," which begins by saying that "never, we think, since the Liberation movement was established has any year passed without our being able to look back upon it with satisfaction." The course of the Liberation movement and of its many successes are then traced, and the work of the past year especially dealt with. We quote the following broad exhibition of the events of the year:—

> The work of the past year has necessarily resembled the work of previous years, but with an important difference. It has been more concentrated. We have not had to discuss minor questions. The whole force of agitation has been directed against the unscrupulousness, the injustice, and the injury of the State-Church itself, and we think we can say that never has our work been more gratifying. The discussions in the House of Commons in 1871 and in the present year have not only lifted this question from one of apparently sectarian to one of national interest, but they have done more. They have already made it a question of practical politics, and they have gained for it the ear of the nation. They have stirred up many adversaries, but then what we principally need in the present phase of the movement is wider and wider discussion. We may point to this fact as one proof of success. We do not want the great question we have taken in hand to be settled by national apathy! We want it to be settled by that living and imperative national conviction which can only be secured by free, open, and earnest debate.
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> The meetings of the Liberation Society in various parts of the kingdom during the last few months, have been marked by more than usual discussion. Often local clergymen have thought it desirable to attend them, but we have not noticed that their arguments have turned the current of thought. There have been, in some instances, violent disturbances organised by the local Establishment parties, but neither have these done any harm. Violence of language and reckless

misrepresentation on the same side have also seemed to be on the increase; but, probably, no great movement has ever been free from these characteristics, and, as certainly, the parties who have adopted such weapons have never been successful. They are always taken up by the losing cause.

No year, probably, has passed in which forces over which we have no control have so helped us. The education controversy has largely and equally stimulated thought, action, and purpose. The difficulties of securing any useful Church reform have increased the disheartened condition of many zealous Churchmen; while the Bennett judgment, by showing the real doctrinal character and doctrinal tendencies of the Establishment, has not only caused confusion in the ranks of one of the largest sections of the Church, and led to important secessions from it, but has also alienated from the Establishment the sympathies of vast numbers of religious men who had hitherto considered her to be, if nothing else, at least a "bulwark of the truth." The year 1872 will mark, in this controversy, the first step towards the adherence to the Liberation movement of the Wesleyan and Presbyterian bodies in England.

Very different from this is the tone of the *Record*, which, in its Monday issue, records, at great length, the events of the year. As regards ecclesiastical affairs, our contemporary deplores the lack of Church reforms, deprecates the "self-seeking policy of the prelates" in this respect, and discerns in it "some of the most threatening aspects of the times as far as regards the safety of the Church Establishment." It goes on to refer to the Episcopal encouragement of Romish innovations, to the increased self-assertion of the Ritualistic party, and the disappointment that has been felt in regard to the Bennett judgment. The *Record* connot look upon the history of the year with any cheerfulness. We scarcely wonder at it.

The compulsory character of the endowments of the State-Church has been illustrated in a very vivid manner to the inhabitants of Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey, who, it will be seen, have held a meeting to protest against the recent proceedings in collecting the rectorial tithes. Certainly these proceedings could not have been of a pleasant character, but, then, they are according to law. If there are half a dozen houses on a certain plot of ground the rector can get the whole of the tithe from number one, leaving number one to get it back again if he can. This, however, is the case everywhere, as many know to their cost. This rector, however, it appears, proceeds to distrain if he is not paid, and that, all other rectors can do if they like. But the rector of Ashton-on-Mersey does it all with the least disagreeableness to himself. He gets his tithes collected and enforced by the Rent Guarantee Society, to whom he has sold them, and adopts this mode, he says, because it relieves him "of all disputations with my parishioners upon pecuniary matters." The parishioners, however, don't see this at all. They do see several warrants enforced, some under very painful and irritating circumstances, with great expense and harshness, and they pronounce the proceedings to be "abominable" and a "disgrace to the Church." But how can it all be otherwise? Tithes and tithe-rent charges are compulsory imposts, and when their collection is pushed to the extreme, it is inevitable that the proceedings should be disagreeable. It is certainly hard, as in one of these cases, that a man personally owing only 3s. 4d. should have a broker put into his house, and a levy made at the point of a pickaxe for 8*l.* 16s. 4d.; but it is the law. A few more cases of this kind, and Englishmen will fully understand the nature of their contributions to the Established Church. We notice that the *Manchester Guardian* alludes to the "outrageous powers" which the law gives in these cases; but members of the Society of Friends have experienced the effects of these "outrageous powers" for a very long time, and the inhabitants of Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey may be assured that it will not be possible to alter the law for their benefit. The ultimate authority for the support of the Established Church rests, and has always rested, upon the bailiff's warrant.

On Friday last a remarkable meeting of agricultural labourers was held at Leamington, at which the Warwickshire Labourers' Union was affiliated with the National Agricultural Union. At this meeting it was stated that the labourers' movement "was only a step towards the settlement of the Church Establishment" and other questions. Mr. Edward Jenkins, who attended the meeting, said, at the same time, that "other unions and associations would be necessary to achieve political changes, though there could be no doubt which side the labourers' union would take." A Tory landlord ournal, commenting upon this, remarks, "This language admits of no mistake; and we deeply regret that the agricultural labourers who have been kidnapped into committing themselves to this course of action by it, should have deprived themselves of the sympathy of their best friends." But the question is, Who *are* the labourers' "best friends"? The clergy and the landlords have hitherto had it all their own way with them, and in what position do they now find themselves? They know, at least, very well by this time, that neither the lay-clergy, nor the lay-landlords, have any sympathy with their endeavour to improve their position. Is it any wonder, under such circumstances, that they should follow the Nonconformists and the Liberals who, alone, have given them any helping hand? Codlin may say he is their best friend, but suppose Short, and Short only, gives all the needed assistance?

THE DISESTABLISHMENT MOVEMENT.

STORMY MEETING AT PRESTON.

On Thursday week a lecture was delivered by the Rev. J. H. Gordon, of Darlington, in the Corn Exchange. There was a crowded audience, some of whom gave unmistakable evidence of a factious opposition to the evening's proceedings before the commencement of the meeting. The proceedings throughout were marked with anything but peace. Mr. H. Ormerod occupied the chair, and amongst those on the platform were the Revs. J. Clough, E. Bolton, W. H. McMechan; Messrs. W. F. Thorpe, Garret, Blackburn, &c. The Rev. E. Lee, towards the close of the lecture, came in.

The CHAIRMAN having introduced the lecturer, Mr. GORDON proceeded to state his views, first repudiating many assertions made by opponents concerning the objects of the Liberation Society. The following discussion then took place:—

The Rev. E. LEE said the lecturer had said that before they did their lessons in the Church they must have it from Parliamentary sanction, and therefore the Parliament took occasion to give them the lessons in the Church. They would have services on the following day sanctioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of the diocese, and not by Parliament! He would also ask, if the State Church were set free would it be far more at liberty to do its work than it was at the present moment, and would the lecturer also tell him, when those Pilgrim Fathers were free in America, did they exercise a more beneficial influence over the people committed to their charge than the State Church did with the "incubus" of Parliamentary sanction? Was Hannah More a Dissenter or a Churchwoman? Were the bishops State paid? If so, from what sources did the money come? Would he define State pay?

The LECTURER said he confessed he did not altogether understand some of Mr. Lee's questions. The second "question" was that on the following day they were going to have certain lessons. It was simply a statement made. If Mr. Lee was going to-morrow to break the law, then so much the worse for Mr. Lee. If he is not, then he was going to keep it. ("Oh, oh!") Regarding the Pilgrim Fathers, he was not responsible for them. Mr. Lee was running from the question. As to Hannah More he believed she was a Churchwoman. Did that make the action of the Ecclesiastical Commission better or worse? As to the State pay of bishops, Mr. Lee must know that they were paid by Act of Parliament; by Parliamentary protection and provision; from funds absolutely under Parliamentary direction and control. That question went to the root of the property question. The money came from capitular estates under the control of Parliament. In that sense they were State paid. (Oh!")

The Rev. E. LEE asked if the State had a right to divert that property to other purposes besides paying bishops? What did the lecturer mean by the State?

The LECTURER said by the State he meant the nation in its Government. Regarding the diverting of the money he said he had a perfect right to do what he liked with his own, and divert it as he pleased. If he found the Fleetwood railway was not paying a percentage he hoped for, he was justified in selling out his shares and investing in the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, which did pay a good percentage. They contended that in so far as national property was concerned, the nation had a perfect right to do what it liked with it own, and could not rob itself.

The Rev. E. LEE asked from what source the see of Durham derived its income?

The LECTURER answered that the Ecclesiastical Commission from these estates justified him in the statement that that was Parliamentary property. Their great contention was that was national property, and if it was not the Church should have it. If it was, the Church had no right to it. Those questions of Mr. Lee's were far back from the supreme question, "Ought the Church of Christ to be patronised and controlled by Parliament?"

The Rev. E. LEE said that the money left to Durham was distinctly laid out for the Church; and how could the lecturer say, when Parliament was the guardian, and the money was to be applied to the Church, that the money was to be applied to the nation. The lecturer had brought a little confusion with him from Darlington. Did he mean to say that the money applied to the see of Durham might be applied to the whole nation when it was applied and given to Churchmen?

The LECTURER said that if he had brought confusion with him from Darlington, do not let them have it worse confounded at Preston. (Great laughter, and a voice: "That will do for Lee.") The State was dealing with the Durham property, and it was therefore national property, and the nation might do what it liked. The State was directing its control: it had possession, which was nine points of the law. The State had the possession. Mr. Lee had no more right to take possession of his church than the postmaster had of the post-office.

The Rev. E. LEE next asked if a guardian of property could do with that property the same as if that guardian were the actual owner. Referring to the see of Durham, he (Mr. Lee) said that the lands were left directly to the see of Durham. Would the lecturer also say whether he thought that the vicar of a parish held his official capacity in the same tenure as a postmaster his office?

The LECTURER said, their contention was that there was no guardianship at all in that case. There was an ownership which never died, because the State never died.

Some other questions were asked and answered, when

The LECTURER said he would have no objection to having a public discussion with Mr. Lee on the matter.

Mr. LEE assented, and subsequently the date was fixed.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was accorded amid much confusion.

NONCONFORMIST CONFERENCE AT CHESTER.

On Wednesday evening a conference of Nonconformists was held in Queen-street Assembly-room, to hear papers on the Bennett Judgment and on the policy of Mr. Miall and the Liberation Society. There was but a poor meeting. Mr. H. W. Dixon occupied the chair, and amongst those present were the Revs. P. W. Darnton, T. Peters, W. Durban, J. Williams, Messrs. G. Marsh, Rogers, T. W. Jones, Ellington, &c.

After a brief speech from the CHAIRMAN, who said that in a cathedral town like Chester, it was uphill work for Nonconformists to take their stand, the Rev. P. W. Darnton read a paper on the Bennett judgment with the object of showing its significance and tendency, and to show what Nonconformists had to do with it. On the latter point he remarked that they were all by law members of the Establishment—"Nonconforming members," as Dean Stanley said, and they had a right, aye and it was their duty, to speak out boldly when they believed the Church was misgoverned, and when the revenues and advantages of the State were being employed to teach most injurious heresy. He thought the Evangelicals hardly appreciated the gravity of the crisis. Leading clergymen of that party affirmed that out of the 20,000 clergy belonging to the Establishment, not more than 5,000 belong to the Evangelical party. He feared that number is rapidly decreasing. Here were 15,000 out of 20,000 clergy paid and patronised by the nation, and authoritative teachers of the nation, who were teaching not what they called the Gospel, but rather semi-Popery or semi-infidelity—out of the whole 20,000 only one-fourth proclaiming what they had been accustomed to think of and preach as the Gospel of Christ. Had they not a right to demand that such a Church should descend from its position of authority—that the nation, of which they formed a part, should no longer speak through such an organisation—and that therefore the connection between Church and State should at once cease? (Applause.) The existence of a national Church which had no faith, which included people of all creeds and no creed, was gradually undermining the earnestness of the people. Faith in the Gospel of Christ; faith in the Bible had made England great; the loss of that faith would be England's ruin—(Hear, hear)—and, as the Broad Church theory, the latitudinarianism of the Establishment, was undermining that faith, they the Nonconformists of to-day must emulate their fathers, and hold up on high the banner of the Gospel. (Applause.)

The Rev. JAMES WILLIAMS moved a resolution in effect that in view of the fact of the late Bennett judgment, the meeting was of opinion that another and most important reason had been given for the dissolution of the connection between the Church and State, and that all friends of the Protestant religion were bound to demand accordingly the disestablishment of the English Church. (Applause.) This was seconded by Mr. MADDOX, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. W. DURBAN then read a paper on Mr. Miall and the Liberation Society, in which he alluded to the growth of that organisation, and to the fact that it could not now be ignored, and to the ripening of public opinion in favour of disestablishment as one of the most striking signs of the times. After an historical survey of the subject, the speaker praised Mr. Miall for his conciliatory attitude and his hesitation in the face of surrounding circumstances in making the separation of the Church and State the universal test question at the next general election. They must educate the Liberal party and the country up to their principles.

Mr. MARSH moved and Mr. ELLINGTON seconded the following resolution:—

"That this meeting cordially approves of the principles embodied in the motion of which Mr. Miall has given notice in the House of Commons, and recommends the Nonconformist Association to prepare petitions in support of that motion." (Applause.)

Mr. LOVEWELL observed that there were three clergymen—two in Chester and one not far away—who had said that since the Bennett judgment the sooner the Church was disestablished the better. After some further remarks the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, and the meeting separated after passing votes of thanks to the gentlemen who had contributed the papers and to the chairman for presiding.

THE MANCHESTER NONCONFORMIST ASSOCIATION have announced a new course of lectures for the new year. Most of them will be delivered in the Free Trade Hall. The first lecture will be given by Edward Miall, Esq., M.P., on the 14th inst—subject:—"The Bearing of Religious Equality on

the Rights of Individuals and Spiritual Communities." On January 21st, the Rev. J. Guinness Rogers, B.A., will lecture on "The Bennett Judgment, and Recent Episcopal Charges." On the 28th, Neville Goodman, Esq., M.A., will deal with the topic, "The Established Church a Hindrance to Progressive Thought." And on the 4th of February, Henry Richard, Esq., M.P., will deliver a lecture on "The Influence of the Established Church on the Progress of Liberal Legislation."

THE REV. J. A. PICTON ON "THE NATIONAL RELIGION."

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 18th, the Rev. J. Allanson Picton, M.A., of London, delivered a lecture at the Philharmonic Hall, Southampton, on "The National Religion, practically considered." Mr. W. Lankester, J.P., presided, and was supported by the Revs. H. H. Carlisle, R. Caven, and G. Gregg, Messrs. R. Legg, G. Dowman, J. J. Burnett, J. T. Tucker, S. S. Pearce, Hardiman, J. S. Pearce, Lumby, Howell, and others.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said they were accepting the challenge thrown out by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Miall in the disestablishment debate that he should show the people of England were educated up to the point of disestablishment. Since then another of Her Majesty's Ministers, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, had supplemented Mr. Gladstone challenge by going considerably out of his way, before his constituents at Deal, in order to deprecate the views taken especially by his Nonconforming bretheren. The Rev. J. G. Rogers, of Clapham, therefore, thought that he would go and answer Mr. Hugessen on the spot, and accordingly he had appeared at Deal to reply to that gentleman's views. They were asked not to put themselves forward to destroy the unity of the great Liberal party in England, but just waive these questions for the sake of what he (the speaker) thought would be a hollow unity. Their reply was that much as they admired the Liberal party they were not prepared for such a compromise. (Hear, hear.) They said, "Principle first, and party afterwards." (Cheers.) They were no enemies to the Church—(Hear)—but only of the connection which tied and bound her to the State. This they desired to be dissolved, because they believed no church could lift her head in the enjoyment of the freedom with which Christ had made her free when chained and trammelled by the State which controls her. They did not want to destroy, or in any way injure the Church of England, to touch the Thirty-nine Articles, or the Prayer-book, to put an end to Episcopacy, or to interfere with the doctrines or worship of Episcopalians. They did not want any of their religious bodies to occupy the place of the Establishment, to take possession of the churches built by Churchmen, or to divide what is called church property among themselves. They did not want to deprive Episcopalians of endowments, or any other property created by Churchmen for Church purposes, or to injure, to the extent of a single shilling, the owners of advowsons, the holders of livings, or the occupants of other ecclesiastical offices; nor did they want to effect their object by any sudden or any violent changes, or by any other process than successive acts of legislation which will be in harmony with public opinion, formed and directed by constitutional means. They wished that the bishops should cease to exercise any political power in virtue of their ecclesiastical offices; that all connection between the Church and the State, in the way of support on the one hand or control on the other, should absolutely cease; that questions of religious truth or Christian worship should be put altogether outside the House of Commons; that the appointment of Christian ministers, Christian bishops, should be entirely removed from the prerogatives of the Minister of the Crown; and that all people should stand on a perfect level in the eye of the law in relation to religion; that religious truth should be left to its own energies and to the faith and love of Christian men for its sustentation, its defence and its extension.

The Rev. J. A. PICTON, in commencing his lecture, said he believed that if the term "national religion" implied the result of a deep feeling to God as the supreme Father, sovereign, lord, and judge, it would never occur to an apostolic observer to draw a line of distinction in respect to metaphysical creeds and formulas, but that wherever people met together in the name of Christ to praise the Saviour and proclaim the Christian truth, there would it be owned was the power of the Spirit of God; and if such an observer were told that a certain body represented the Church as by law established, the phrase would have very little meaning for him. But if such an observer found that if certain congregations united by law provided only a portion of the religious accommodation of the country, though they absorbed an enormous share of national property, and treated others too frequently with jealous exclusiveness, he was persuaded such a man would at once reject such an institution as any true exemplification of a national religion. If, too, he found that connection with this sect gave a privileged position which must inevitably cause heart-burnings and jealousies, and that the cure of souls was sold for money and held as property to be handed down from father to son, he would surely exclaim, "Nay, ye do wrong and defraud, and that your own brethren." The Liberationists insisted that wherever religion takes hold of the hearts of people it will show itself—that if there is no religion in the individual mind we cannot get it displayed, but that if there is genuine religious life in the individual mind of the nation, it will show itself. He believed, for instance, that national religion is shown by the increasing horror of war and the belief that those exhibit the truest courage who forward and establish the law of Christ—that it was shown in the recent act of arbitration between us and America, and in our growing impatience of any unfairness towards any section of the community—by our learning more and more to prize a man because he is a man—by the efforts we have put forth for the extinction of slavery, and by recent proceedings to put down that iniquity in quarters of the world where the naval power of England makes her responsible. In other words, States may build cathedrals, and endow priests, and multiply sermons, and all may be without one spark of true religion. And where prejudice and interest combine to maintain a great wrong, there do and will come seasons when the national conscience is awakened, and when pride, prejudice, and sectarian feeling will have to give way before it. Such times, he proceeded to point out, have occurred even within the experience of the present generation; and the time would yet come when the majority of the people of this country—Episcopalians and others—would admit that inequality never can be true justice, and that the reign of Christ never can be secured where a mere arbitrary privilege is allowed to continue a bitterness of feeling amongst true Christian hearts. In the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church in England and Scotland we should have one of the noblest exhibitions of a national religion ever yet made. (Cheers.) A national religion ought to be the expression of the tone of national feeling—the expression of the national will. But was it the expression of the national will that the cure of immortal souls should be bought and sold in the market day by day! (Hear.) Was it the expression of the national will as gathered from the feeling of the voters of England that the hardest workers in the Church should oftentimes be bordering on starvation when the great men are rolling in wealth? (Hear.) Was it the expression of the national will that in some of our most beautiful churches the worship should approximate as near as possible to that of the Church of Rome? (Cheers.) Was it the expression of the national will that we should positively hear talk of the introduction of the confessional? (Cheers.) Whatever might be the object of the Church by law established, to contend for it as now established and now existing, as expressive of the national will, was false in fact, perverse in sentiment, and an insult to Christian feeling and common sense. Coming, then, to review some of the reasons set forth for the maintenance of the Church of England on its present footing, the lecturer characterised a number of them as merely sentimental; and proceeded to advert the recent charge of the Bishop of Manchester, and to the sentimental reasons put forward in defence of a "national church." He contended that if the Church were disestablished to-morrow he had no doubt Englishmen would find a common meeting ground for the purposes of moral and spiritual life. For what were those purposes, but either prayer, or benevolence, or missionary enterprise? The truth was, such sentiments as these were merely unmeaning, and vanished into thin air when they came to be examined. Another reason put forward was the protection given to independence of opinion amongst the clergy, by the State providing for them a modest maintenance independent of the petulance of deacons or whims of congregations, and this at first sight was very plausible. As a Nonconformist preacher, he found no difficulty in maintaining perfect independence of opinion, though to a certain extent he could go with Dean Stanley in maintaining that a sufficient income and a pleasant residence secured to men by the law of the land are necessary to maintain their courage and secure their independence, for he knew many occasions of narrow-minded, bigoted, blind, and stupid persecutions amongst Dissenters. Bnt it always seemed to him to talk about independence that needed protection was a contradiction in terms, and that to ensure this independence a competency must be first secured, was equivalent to saying that men could not afford to have consciences. It was also pleaded that independence enabled the clergy to preach doctrines objectionable to those who listened. Yes, such, he supposed, as the preaching of Romish doctrines in a Protestant pulpit—(Hear, hear)—and by what right, he should like to ask, human or divine, was the nation called upon to pay out of its resources for the support of that which it did not approve? (Hear.) The sort of freedom contended for by many of the Broad Church party was a freedom of an exceedingly spurious and dangerous character, and consisted, to a great extent, of interpreting black to mean white, or the reverse, as might be necessary. Another reason urged for the maintenance of the Church was that if things were not continued as they are the Church would become a sect, but Mr. Spurgeon once said that he did not know it was anything else but a sect. The difference was said to be that the Church was characterised by comprehensiveness, by charity, by a sympathy for all the different phases in which the truth could be set forth, whereas a sect seized upon and emphasised one aspect of truth and reflected nothing else. If the Establishment had the effect of enlarging the mind so much, he could not help thinking it would be doing much good. Another reason urged in favour of the maintenance of the Church was that in the present state of things it supplied the unavoidable defects of voluntaryism, which is a failure where it is most needed—amongst the poor, but if they would go into the worst districts of London or our largest towns, mission-rooms were everywhere to be found which had been established by wealthy churches in the suburbs, and ragged-schools and the like machinery maintained by rich people who had gone far away from the multitude to reside. There were many people who would not attend a set form of worship, and although the means of ministration might be changed, in some places they were but charged with the wishes of the people. Then it was said that voluntaryism might do very well for towns, but it never answered for the rural districts. "S. G. O., however, in a letter to the *Times* on the agricultural labour question, admitted that the leaders of this movement were not the clergy of the land, but Methodist and other preachers who entered the pulpit on Sunday to instruct as best they might their fellow-labourers, and who had achieved a vast influence over their class, such as he believed would preserve among them in general that high moral tone which had hitherto marked their demands. Again, it was said that a National Church was a means of conveying to Heaven a solemn national act of thankfulness for great Providential mercies, referring to the thanksgiving for the restoration to health of the Prince of Wales; but it seemed to him that if, instead of the form the thanksgiving took, a general invitation had been addressed to the ministers of all denominations throughout the land to hold a thanksgiving service, the different assemblies in their own places of worship would have displayed far more real reverence and have offered far more earnest prayers to Heaven than could be expected amidst the excitement of a State ceremonial. (Hear.) It was perfectly plain to those who could read the signs of the times that we had now reached the beginning of the end. The *Times* had not only copied the recent statistics of religious accommodation, but broadly stated that unless the Established Church could show a majority of worshippers it might as well set its house in order. The Presbyterians had not been active members of the Liberation Society, but within a short period they had come to admit that their former hopes were entirely illusive, and to see that the only issue now is disestablishment. The Bishop of Manchester has expressed a hope that the Wesleyans might be brought back into the fold of the Church. but scarcely was his voice silent before an assembly of Wesleyan ministers in London proposed a series of resolutions on the subject of national education, which could not have been passed by any body of men who had not set their hearts on disestablishment. (Cheers.) Of course there were certain inconsistent exceptions—they were almost necessarily to be expected—but, saving these, the resolutions were such as might have been put forward by the Birmingham League, and all who knew anything of the younger ministers of the Connexion must be aware that of late years the opinion had grown stronger that the true policy of their body was nothing less than disestablishment. (Cheers.) Scarcely could any bishop charge his clergy nowadays without vexing his soul with this question, because they all see that day by day it is coming nearer. The political establishment had managed to exist so long mainly because of the comparatively neutral tint, especially in matters of doctrine, which the Church had been able to preserve. But the enormous development of Ritualism, if no other divergencies of opinion were manifest, was clearly inconsistent with the continuance of the Establishment, and now it had become a system of Catholicism contrasted with Protestantism, authority contrasted with the right of private judgment, and sacramentalism as contrasted with the ordinary Protestant idea of justification by faith. Starting from such grounds as these, many of the clergy of the Establishment were manifestly being driven into closer and closer proximity with Rome, and he was told that so far had this become the case in this town that a number of clergymen had met and discussed in private, not whether confession within the Church of England was right or no, but rules for the right use of confession in the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) Things having gone to that extent, it became a mere matter of time when the end should be. He appealed especially to Churchmen who loved the Church to help in hastening on the day when she should no longer suffer from State influence. Let them not think that this movement was dictated by a mere love of political agitation, for it was well known that it originated with men who thought at any rate that they had the interests of Christian truth at heart. It had grown by the sympathies of those who believe that religious equality is essential to full political liberty, and it would be carried out to success by the accession of those from within the Church who believe a fair field and no favour to be the best arena for resettling our policy in accord with the spirit of the times. Those who may thus assist will not, perhaps, add any lustre to their own names by their activity or self-sacrifice, but at any rate they may go to their graves with the consciousness of having helped to hand down to their children a constitution far more glorious than was known to our forefathers—a constitution far more glorious both in Church and State—a State freed from injustice to conscience, and a Church made, in the language of the Apostle, not according to the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. R. LEGG said that if the Church were disestablished and disendowed he believed they would have more thoroughly honest Protestant Christian

clergymen to minister to them. (Cheers.) He never touched politics; that he left to others, but when his Protestant hopes for his family and himself came to be interfered with, it was time that at all hazards he spoke out and did all he could to put a stop to these iniquitous proceedings. He therefore proposed a resolution to the effect that the meeting, highly approving of Mr. Miall's motion for disestablishment, adopt a petition to both Houses of Parliament praying for the disestablishment and disendowment of the churches in England and Scotland. (Cheers.) This was briefly seconded by Mr. Alderman TUCKER, and carried unanimously. After votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman, a petition in favour of the objects of the meeting was signed at the door as the meeting dispersed.

THE MEMBERS FOR SCARBOROUGH AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.

A few days ago the members for Scarborough, Mr. J. D. Dent and Sir Harcourt Johnstone, Bart., addressed their constituents at a crowded meeting in the Town Hall, W. Rowntree, Esq., presiding. Mr. Dent referring to the education question, said he wished to see the rights of the parent respected, for he thought religion a most essential part of education, and he should be no party to putting schools upon a secular footing. He thought the effect of the 25th Clause had been much exaggerated, and the evils that were alleged to be likely to arise therefrom through denominations getting their children paid for had been much enlarged. As a proof thereof he said at Leeds the amount of fees remitted to children by the school board up to November was to the Church of England 3*l.* 6s.; Roman Catholics, 1*l.* 15s. 6d.; British and Wesleyan, 15s.; Board Schools, 8*l.* 3s.2d.; while the increase of children attending schools from March 31 to August 31 was 5,394, the total number in 1870 being 22,556. He thought the matter might be settled as in Scotland, viz., that there should be compulsory education, but that the parent should have the privilege of saying where he will send his children, and if it can be shown that he is unable to pay the fees for his children, then they should be remitted. Sir H. Johnstone, who touched on the same subject, advocated universal compulsion and school boards, though not always board schools. Their main difficulty would be in the country districts, not because the parson or the squire, as was often said, desired to have the matter in their own hands, but because the farmer, who had an ignorant impatience of taxation, when he saw a good school carried on without any expense to himself, would rather not turn and pay his share. Yet the time would come when the burden would fall so hard upon the individual proprietor or the country clergymen, that they would turn round and say they would not stand it any longer, and would call upon their neighbours to help. This would take time, and he deprecated precipitate action in the matter, which he considered would retard rather than hasten the question. He would now allude to the question of Church disestablishment. (Enthusiastic applause.) Although a Broad and Liberal Churchman, he did not believe such enormous good would accrue from the disestablishment of the English Church as was thought, nor did he think it would do a single person in that room the slightest good. He believed in it in theory, for if they were going to begin to-morrow to start a new system, no one would think of allying the Church with the State. (Applause.) He did not look upon the alliance of Church and State as so great an advantage to the Church as to the State. If the question of severing the alliance between the two had been brought forward fifty years ago, there would have been much stronger grounds then than there are now, for he did not believe there ever was a time in the history of the Church from the time of the Reformation, when its affairs had been so well administered as during the last twenty years. He did not say she was doing her utmost, but his impression was that she had been working hard, and nowhere more than in this town, for the last few years. This measure for disestablishment was greatly in advance of the public opinion of the country, and only one-seventh part of the House of Commons voted for it, and many Nonconformists absented themselves from the division. But the time might come when it would be thought the Church should govern herself; at present they all had a voice in it. With regard to the Church revenues, these he believed if taken away would be a source of constant grumbling amongst A, B, C, D, and E, as to what should be done with them. Let them give the Church of England credit for the wish to reform herself, and she would do it, and probably this motion for disestablishment would be one of the strongest incentives to make her do this more quickly, but he did not think the nation would gain one whit by her being disestablished.

In reply to the Rev. R. BALGARNIE, Mr. DENT said that the Bennett judgment had not altered his views on the question of Church and State.

The Rev. J. LEWITT (Baptist) and Mr. THACKRAY seconded a vote of thanks to the members for Scarborough for coming amongst them.—The Rev. Mr. BALGARNIE, in a short but earnest speech on the separation of Church and State, moved as an amendment:—

That this meeting, while gratefully acknowledging the past services of the members, and the support they have given from time to time to many important Liberal measures, expresses its disapproval of their votes in favour of the union of Church and State, and in support of denominational education, as being unmistakeably opposed to the great principle of religious equality.

(Long-continued cheering.)—The Rev. Mr. ROWNTREE seconded the amendment.—The Rev. R. LEWITT said his resolution was simply one of courtesy, and expressly abstained from committing the meeting to concur in all that their respected representatives had either said or done.—After some discussion, in which it was evident that the feeling of the meeting was against vacillation, Mr. BALGARNIE pressed his amendment, which upon a division was carried by a large majority.

A correspondent remarks that the incident is a type of what must happen in many constituencies. In Scarborough the Liberals have a large majority, and nineteen-twentieths of the Liberals are Dissenters and anti-State Church, and they begin to see the incongruity of such a constituency sending two M.P.'s to vote against some of their most cherished convictions. This feeling is held universally among the rank-and-file of the party, especially among the working men, and spite of a hesitation on the part of one or two of the old party leaders to break with the old members.

THE ENDOWED SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS AND THE NONCONFORMISTS.

Mr. Frank Schnadhorst, of Birmingham, Secretary to the Central Nonconformist Committee, has received the following letter from the Endowed Schools Commission, in answer to a memorial relating to the new scheme for King Edward's School, Birmingham:

"Endowed Schools Commission, 2, Victoria-street, S.W., Dec. 23.—Sir,—1st. Herewith I send you a copy of the scheme for the above-named school, in the form in which the Endowed Schools Commissioners have submitted it to the Committee of Council on Education, in accordance with Sect. 36 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869. 2nd. The commissioners have carefully considered the objections contained in the memorial which accompanied your letter of the 27th of April; but they regret they cannot accept the general position taken by the memorialists, although they have, in some respects, modified the draft scheme so as to bring it more into accordance with their views. 3rd. The commissioners cannot entirely withdraw Clause 50 of the draft scheme. To do so would, they believe, be contrary to the greatly preponderating weight of opinion and feeling in the country. But they have modified the clause so as to leave the responsibility of defining the religious instruction to be given in the schools of the foundation with the governing body alone. 4th. The constitution of the governing body has been modified so as in the opinion of the commissioners to increase the influence of the representative element. The school board must be regarded as a representative body expressly provided by the Legislature to deal with educational questions. The commissioners in the discharge of their duties cannot take into account any exceptional results which may or may not have followed the late election at Birmingham.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, D. C. RICHMOND. F. Schnadhorst, Esq., 86, New-street, Birmingham."

The draft scheme of the commissioners proposed that the governing body should consist of twenty-four persons, two, the mayor and the chairman of the school board, being *ex officio* governors, eight being nominated by the Town Council, four by the school board, and twelve by the present governors and their successors. The new scheme provides that there shall be twenty-one governors, of whom one shall be nominated by the masters and teachers of the foundation; eight elected by the Town Council; four by the school board; and eight by the present governors and their successors. Clause 50 of the old scheme compelled the governors and head master of the school to provide religious instruction. Clause 50 as amended provides that the question of the provision of religious instruction shall be left to the governors to deal with. The concession made in the interests of Nonconformists are regarded as important.

CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE.

A meeting of this committee was held last week, W. Middlemore, Esq., J.P., presiding. The secretary presented a report referring to the electoral work of the officers in various towns, to the formation of Nonconformist committees, the action taken with reference to the amendment of Clause 25 of the Education Act by transferring the payment of fees to boards of guardians, the deputation to Mr. Gladstone on December 11, and various other matters. It was stated that a large and influential Nonconformist committee had been formed at Bristol, W. Somerville, Esq., J.P., being chairman; and that at Exeter also a strong and representative committee had been appointed, John Trehane, Esq., J.P., being chairman.

Arrangements were being made for a Nonconformist Conference at Nottingham, for the county, and for a similar conference for the county of Hampshire, to be held at Southampton, at both of which deputations would attend from the committee.

A report was made with regard to the recent conference held in London on Irish University Education, and it was resolved to arrange for the publication of a pamphlet containing a popular exposition of the whole subject, especially in its bearings upon the principles of religious equality.

The action of the officers with regard to Clause 25 having been approved, and a resolution thereon passed, it was announced that the following publications had been issued, or were nearly ready:—"The Nonconformists and the Education Act," by Henry Richard, Esq., M.P.; "Religious Teaching by School Boards perilous to the Religious Life of the Nation," by R. W. Dale, M.A.; "The Education Act, its Principles, Working, and Results, with an Appendix on the Discussions and Resolutions of the Committee on Education, addressed to the Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference," by J. Richard Hargreaves, Wesleyan Minister, 2nd edition; and "Occasional Paper, No. VI."

DISTRAINT FOR RECTORIAL TITHES.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey was held last week "to protest against the recent proceedings in collecting the rectorial tithes." It appears from a letter written by the rector that in consideration of a fixed sum to be paid to him annually by the Rent Guarantee Society of London he transferred to them five years ago the legal estate of the tithe-rent charge. The mode in which the society proceeds with the collection is thus described. A number of people occupy land in the same allotment, and a notice for payment of the tithes due from all these occupants is served upon one of them, who is required to disburse the lump sum, and recover, as best he may, from the other eleven their respective shares. The individual pitched upon is also mulcted in a fee for the service of the notice, and it is held by the clerical attorney that such notice served on one person will warrant distraint upon the goods and chattels of every other occupant of the allotment. Mr. W. CRIGHTON occupied the chair.

Mr. G. ROOKE moved:—

That this meeting protests against the existing laws for the collection of rectorial tithes as impracticable, unjust and oppressive.

He said he did not move that resolution with any enmity against the Established Church or any individual. It was, indeed, in the interests of the Established Church, because, if the foundations of the Church did not rest on truth and justice, it must inevitably fall. The rector had a very summary mode of getting his part of the business done. He got his claim from tenant No. 1; but the matter did not end there. Whoever paid the rector in that way had the trouble of getting what he had paid from those who had to contribute, minus his own share. That was the law as it stood. He had only to point out the plan of collecting pursued of late—and they were told by the sanction of the law—to prove that the thing was unjust. They were asked to believe that a notice which was served upon one man was to be held to be sufficient for the dozen people who occupied land in the same allotment. It was quite true this was only the statement of the rector's attorney, but he (Mr. Rooke) had another opinion. He had the opinion of a London lawyer, who held that if the notice was served on one occupier, and the distress put in the house of another, that was illegal. (Applause.) Upon the service of this document a fee of 2s. 6d. was charged. Supposing the notice was served on the chairman, and his (Mr. Rooke's) goods distrained, he would have to pay for the service of the notice, as well as the tithes. That was an interpretation of the law, but it was what it never meant. (Applause.) Unless they associated together, they should be beaten in detail. They could not face the matter one by one. They must do it unitedly, if they did it effectively; and if they did it ineffectively, the rector of Ashton-upon-Mersey would long continue to treat his parishioners as he had done. (Applause.)

Mr. S. HAMER seconded the motion. He said his grievance was the unjust manner in which the tithes of the parish were collected. On Friday, the 6th inst. a notice was left at his house. His tithes amounted to 1s. 7d. a year, and, with arrears, about 3s. 4d. was due. The notice said, "Please pay 8*l.* 16s. 4d. at the Bull's Head to prevent distraint." Not knowing the nature of the demand, or anything about tithes, he said to his wife, he would not pay it; but if they would take the 3s. 4d. he would pay that. On Saturday he went to town, and he wrote to the society in London, asking an explanation of why he had to pay the larger sum. About eleven o'clock three fellows called at his house, and walking into the drawing-room, asked his wife if Mr. Hamer had left that money. She replied in the negative, and they then began to take an inventory of his furniture. When he got home he found a man in possession of his house. The warrant he held was not signed by a magistrate, and as he (Mr. Hamer) thought it was an illegal document, he ordered him out of the house. The fellow went away, and he thought he had got rid of him, but in a short time he returned, armed with a pickaxe. He rang at the door, and demanded admittance, which was refused. He (Mr. Hamer) tried to reason with the fellow, but he said if the door was not opened he would smash it. When the door was opened he entered the house like a ruffian, and ultimately he (Mr. Hamer) paid the 8*l.* 16s. 4d. What he still further complained of was that he had to pay the 2s. 6d. charged for the delivery of the notice, and 5s. 6d. for the bailiff's expenses. His grievance was that the rector of the parish should place the matter in such hands. The man told him he was simply the servant of the rector; he had not sold or mortgaged the tithe-rent charge, but simply placed it in their hands to collect.

Mr. WHITTY supported the resolution. He said he was a Churchman, but he considered that the

mode of collecting the tithe-rent charge was unwarrantable, unjust, and in every way an abominable proceeding. It was enough to drive them all into Nonconformity. He did feel that it was a disgrace to the mother church to sanction such steps. (Applause.)

A GENTLEMAN in the body of the meeting denied the statement of the rector that no complaints had been made to him. He said he had complained. The society seemed to be a society for doing the dirty work of the rector, what he was ashamed to do himself. (Applause.)

The resolution was passed.

Mr. J. GREGSON moved :—

That this meeting regrets the course pursued by the rector of this parish in placing his tithe-rent charge in the hands of strangers from a distance, and strongly protests against the summary and very arbitrary means taken by his agents in collecting this impost.

Mr. HILL seconded the resolution, which was passed.

It was resolved that copies of the resolutions passed should be sent to the rector of Ashton-upon-Mersey, and to the members of Parliament for the division. The gentlemen who addressed the meeting were constituted a committee, to take what further steps they might deem necessary in the matter.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

"OUR DISSENTING BRETHREN."

(Church Times.)

The series of letters upon the services of "Our Dissenting Brethren," which have appeared in our columns during the last few weeks, have now come to an end. It would seem, therefore, appropriate if we now "take stock" of what our special commissioner has made public, and try to draw some lessons and conclusions from his experiences. . .

Identifying ourselves with our correspondent, we must confess that our general impression of Dissenting worship, even in its more perfect forms, is unfavourable. Putting on one side those chapels in which the English Church service was employed, we must confess that the devotional arrangement was in every case seriously lacking in unity and point. Except in those cases where an exposition or a prayer followed upon a reading of Holy Scripture, there seemed no connection between the several portions of the service—nothing to carry on the intelligent worshipper naturally from one point to another. To an uninitiated outsider, accustomed to a carefully-arranged and long-tested sequence of confession, praise, and prayer, this appears a very serious defect, and we are much mistaken if the more intellectual and thoughtful Nonconformists have not long ago become convinced that their system might in this respect be decidedly changed for the better.

Considering the freedom which, in a certain sense, our Dissenting brethren enjoy, it seems strange to us that they do not make more of it as regards the arrangement of their public services. . . .

The feebleness of the hymn-singing and the dulness of the melodies for the most part employed seem to have struck our representative forcibly on several occasions. Except at Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle, there appears to have been but little attempt to make the choral parts of the service in any great degree congregational, and there the tunes employed were more cheerful and popular than usual.

One question raised by our commissioner was that of posture in worship, and at present we have met with no satisfactory reply to it. It is, of course, no answer at all to say that in a "spiritual exercise," such as worship, posture is a matter of indifference, for, though a spiritual exercise, it is rendered by beings who are corporeal as well as spiritual, and who in worship have to render homage for bodily as well as for spiritual blessings to Him who made both body and spirit. If, as the apostle teaches, we are to glorify God in our bodies as well as in our spirits, it must follow that in worship the body should bear its part. It does so in the hymn-singing and in the responses, and thus the principle we contend for is conceded by our Dissenting brethren. If the mouth takes its share in the act of worship, why not those other portions of the body with which mankind by universal consent in secular matters gives expression to the inward sentiments.

It must necessarily be very difficult for outsiders to judge accurately as to the causes which render Dissent attractive, so far as it does attract. We believe that a good deal of the secret lies in the fact that each congregation is, to a certain extent, autonomous, and that each member feels that he has a personal interest in the success of the "cause," however little such feeling may be supported by facts.

THE BAPTIST UNION AND MR. MIALL'S MOTION.—At the autumnal meeting of the Baptist Union a resolution was passed expressing hearty approval of the principles affirmed by Mr. Miall's motion, and urging local action on their behalf. The committee of the Union has since resolved as follows:—"That, with a view to support the efforts of E. Miall, Esq., M.P., in the next session of Parliament, for Church disestablishment, and in accordance with the resolution unanimously passed at the last autumnal session of the Baptist Union, this committee earnestly recommends that *petitions* be adopted by all the churches of the Baptist denomination, praying that the Establishment of the Churches of England and Scotland be no longer maintained."

THE BURIALS BILL.—The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—"At the close of the last session of Parliament, a memorial, signed by a large number of Liberal members, was presented to Mr. Gladstone, in which attention was called to the position of Mr. Osborne Morgan's Burials Bill. The memorialists pointed out the difficulties which beset any private member who sought to obtain legislation upon such a subject, and urged Mr. Gladstone to make it a Ministerial measure for the coming session. I hear that Mr. Gladstone has just forwarded a reply to that memorial. He states that the Cabinet have given the matter their most earnest attention, but they fear the pressure of other measures will be so great that they cannot undertake to grant the prayer of the memorial." This statement is we believe, correct. The memorial requesting the Government to take up the subject was signed by the large number of 156 Liberal members. The question now reverts to Mr. Osborne Morgan, M.P., whose bill last session made little progress in committee owing to the opposition of the other side.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—The Dublin correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"The effect of the appeal made some time since to the remnant of non-commuting clergymen of the Irish Church has been to cause a good many of these to send in their papers so as to have the 'benefit of the Act' before the year 1872 expires. This greatly facilitates the winding up of the affairs of the Temporalities Commission appointed under the Church Act, and there is now a hope that its business will at no distant date be brought to a state of completion."

MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST. ALBAN'S, HOLBORN.—A special commissioner of the *Daily Telegraph* who was present at the Christmas-eve service in Mr. Mackonochie's church says that, after the sermon, "the Communion Office was then proceeded with. The consecration of the elements was performed in so low a tone as to be almost silent, and the great bell of the church rang out long and loud to tell outsiders that the climax of the sacramental worship had come. The congregation prostrated themselves reverently; and the long silence which ensued was perhaps the most telling effect of the whole ceremony. It was a midnight mass or celebration rather than a communion."

THE OXFORD SELECT PREACHERS.—Dr. Pusey explains in the *Times* why he did not vote when Dean Stanley's name as select preacher was submitted to Convocation. "I do think that Dean Stanley, from his peculiar indefiniteness of mind and of belief, is a pioneer for unbelief from which he himself would shrink. Holding, as he seems to do, that no form of unbelief is wrong, he impresses on those who follow him that no form of belief is right. I cannot doubt that his appointment will be at the cost of faith and of souls, but I feared that the opposition would only aggravate the evil by enlisting the enthusiasm of the young. I said to those who organised it, 'In view of the souls of the young, I dare not join it.'"

THE POPE ON DR. PUSEY.—"A Member of Convocation" remarks in the *Times*—"Dr. Pusey has been pleased to speak of the Dean of Westminster as a pioneer for unbelief. Theologians should refrain from general imputations of this kind against each other. Members of the Church of England who belong to a different school of theology from Dr. Pusey have an equal right, with still stronger reason, to denounce him as a pioneer for Popery. The present Pope, who is likely to know the mental history of many converts to his religion, has compared Dr. Pusey to a church bell, which goes on ringing to call men to church, but never goes into the church itself."

CHURCH AND STATE IN SWITZERLAND.—The *Swiss Times* says:—"The next step in the Church and State controversy in Geneva is, we understand, to be taken early in the ensuing month. The Conseil d'Etat will then introduce a bill into the Grand Conseil, whose main provisions will be that the curés of all parishes be chosen by popular election, and that their salaries be handed to their respective Conseils de Fabrique, to be by them paid over to the properly elected minister. It is also understood that a further proposed enactment will be to the effect that anybody other than the ordinary bishop exercising episcopal functions will be prosecuted for usurping them. The present constitution of the Grand Conseil renders it probable that a measure conceived in this spirit will be carried; though recent experience of the mutations of feelings in that body naturally induces caution in regard to any speculations as to what it will or will not do."

THE ATHANASIAN CREED.—On Wednesday at Norwich a "demonstration" was made against the Athanasian Creed. The following handbill was distributed to the church-goers:—"Peace and goodwill to all men. (Christmas Day, 1872.) You are about to be called on to join in the Athanasian Creed as part of your worship. The Bishop of Peterborough has declared that the creed 'grates on his feelings whenever it is read.' Does it not on yours? The Archbishop of Canterbury declared in the presence of the whole bench of bishops that no one accepts or believes in its terms as they stand. Do you? It is used by no other Church in public services as by ours. Three thousand clergy, of all ranks and parties, have lately petitioned to be relieved from its use in public service. It declares the damnation of millions of our fellow Christians who do not accept it. It binds us, on the same awful peril to ourselves, to believe in that damnation of others. It is a chief hindrance to many from joining our Church or from taking orders. Protest by your silence or attitude against its violation of the spirit of this day, of our Church and of our Lord and Saviour, as always did the late Bishop of Lichfield."

ROMANISM IN ENGLAND.—The Catholic Directory, just published, contains the following items of interest. The College of Cardinals, which consists, when the number is complete, of six cardinal bishops, fifty cardinal priests, and fourteen cardinal deacons, numbers at present only forty-five, eight of whom were created by Gregory XVI. During the present Pontificate no less than ninety-seven cardinals have died, of whom nearly half had been created by Pius the Ninth. The Catholic hierarchy throughout the world consists of 164 archbishops and 707 bishops having sees; besides which, there are 175 whose sees are *in partibus infidelium*; so that the total number is 1,047. The number of prelates who attended the Council was 704. In England there are the archiepiscopal (Westminster) and twelve episcopal sees; in Scotland there are two bishops and one archbishop *in partibus infidelium*. The total number in the British posessions is eleven archbishoprics, seventy-one bishoprics, and twenty-nine vicarates-apostolic. There are thirty-three Catholic peers, including one duke, one marquis, seven earls, four viscounts, and twenty barons. Of those, however, only twenty-four are members of the House of Lords. There are forty-eight baronets Catholics, and thirty-six members of the House of Commons. There are in England 1,636 priests and 1,016 public churches and chapels; in Scotland 226 priests and 229 churches, chapels, or stations—the latter being only occasionally served. Of houses belonging to religious orders, there are in England sixty-nine for men and 239 for women; in Scotland, eight for men and twenty-one for women.

CHURCH AND STATE IN ITALY. — The correspondent of the *Daily News* writes from Rome, Dec. 22nd:—"The law on the Papal guarantees has been voted and applied, and the Ministers have now presented a special law for the suppression of the religious corporations. We are informed that this is only an extension of the laws in operation in the rest of Italy. But this is in reality not the case. Those laws had an economical and fiscal character. Cloudy ideas of liberty and national rights have contributed to the creation of the most confused law ever drawn up. The religious corporations are suppressed; their property is converted into public rente in their favour, and they themselves come under the civil laws. But then the Ministers consider that the religious corporations may be indispensable to the Pope. They must be abolished for all internal purposes; they must exist for foreign purposes. What is to be done? There are forty-seven general houses which direct the whole administration of the different religious orders. The forty-seven houses will then remain, and be recognised by the Government. The second article of the new law, which provides for the recognition of those houses, was approved of in the private committee of the Chamber of Deputies. But after its approval Signor Chiaves proposed that the house of the General of the Jesuits' Order should be suppressed. This proposal was not very energetically expressed. But Signor Nicotera, of the Left, proposed an amendment to the same effect, which was approved by the great majority of the members present. The Ministers themselves don't know whether they must consider this a blow inflicted upon their policy. On the other hand, it would be monstrous if a Cabinet, a Liberal Cabinet, were to resign apparently in defence of the Order of the Jesuits. The position of the Cabinet is not an enviable one. But the conduct of the Left, which claims to represent the most enlightened principles of liberty, is not very clear. To proclaim liberty of Church and State, and then encroach upon the affairs of the former, is not logical. Parliament had a right to interfere in the management of the religious corporations in everything that concerned the temporal and material interests of the State; but on what ground suppress the house of the Jesuits when the principle proclaimed is that the houses of the generals of the religious corporations are indispensable to the Pope in the exercise of his spiritual functions? The Pope might very well say that the single house of the Jesuits is more necessary to him than the other forty-six put together. The policy of the Government and the conduct of the Opposition are alike the result of an equivocal situation."

THE ORDER OF PHŒBES.—MISDIRECTED ZEAL.—The last new thing among the Ritualists is the order of the Phœbes. Who are and what are the Phœbes? They are an association of high-born High-Church ladies who since the spread of sisterhoods find their occupation gone. It should be known that in the West-end, the High-Church clergy have rather a prejudice against lady district visitors, finding them more zealous than discreet, not sufficiently regular, and generally not so amenable to clerical discipline as they should be. So in many parishes regular nunneries have been established, and the occupants thereof, clad in conventual garb, and completely at the disposal of the clergy, now do the visiting. Whereupon the aforesaid high-born dames being in want of a mission, have formed themselves into a society

called the Phœbes, whose duty it is to clean out the churches which they frequent. The correspondent of a contemporary has humorously described their operations. He says:—"Just at first it is considered well to undertake the charge of but one church until the society shall be fully organised; so one fabric has been selected as the first for the Phœbes to commence operations upon. The work is done on Friday and Saturday afternoons, and as soon as the daily service on Friday morning is over the Phœbes muster in the church. Lady A——'s carriage sets her down at the door, and the brougham of the Hon. Misses B——, comes next. The humbler cab brings Miss C——, and Mrs. D—— is seen hurrying round the corner on foot; so on until the number of Phœbes is complete. Then the church doors are locked, that profane eyes may not gaze on what is being done. From the hour when the doors are closed upon the workers, rank vanishes and perfect equality reigns; the Phœbes are then only known by their numbers. Thus Phœbe No. 1 goes on her knees to polish the tiles of the chancel floor; Phœbe No. 2, carefully gloved, attacks, with black-lead brushes, the stove: Phœbes 4, 5, 6, and 7 are sweeping out the pews and beating up the hassocks: while Phœbe No. 8 has taken the brass eagle of the lectern in hand, and under her vigorous exertions, its youth seems to be renewed. The society has been only in working order for a few weeks, and has had some difficulties to encounter—so much so that for the present the idea is abandoned of taking the cleaning of more than one church into their hands. The chief difficulty was in the utter ignorance of the Phœbes of how the work ought to be done. As one lady described their difficulties: 'I always thought,' she said, 'that a housemaid has the easiest life in the world, but it is quite a mistake. You have no idea how hard it is to polish a stove; and scouring a floor is painfully dreadful. As to beating the dust out of the hassocks, it is not to be thought of; and if you just take my advice you will leave it for the present, and some day I will get a woman in to do it. I know it is against the rules, but I would sooner send a furniture van and have them done at home than break my back, as I have been doing.'"

Religious and Denominational News.

The Hon. and Rev. E. V. Bligh, vicar of Birling, preached on Sunday morning week at Spafields Chapel (Lady Huntingdon's).

The Rev. Wm. H. Bassett was recently presented, at a public meeting held in the Congregational Church, Penrith, with a testimonial of forty guineas as "a token of the love and respect in which he is held by the church and congregation.

The *Record* states that as the result of the recent Intercession Day "several gratuitous Church-workers, who have been conducting lay missions in London, have volunteered for foreign missions. This will cause several vacancies for unpaid lay helpers with evening time to spare for evangelising the non-church-going masses."

EBLEY, NEAR STROUD.—On Friday, December 22, 1872, the members of the church and congregation at Ebley held their annual tea-meeting. After the tea there was a public meeting, at which they presented their esteemed pastor, the Rev. Elijah Jacob, with a certificate constituting him a life member of the Pastors' Retiring Fund. All the speakers spoke to the faithful, loving, and earnest manner in which he has performed his duties amongst them, which extend over a period of eleven years.

FROME.—On Thursday evening, December 19, a service of praise was held in Zion Chapel, Frome, to celebrate the reopening of the organ, now one of the finest instruments in the neighbourhood. About 600*l.* has been expended on its improvement, and in the enlargement of the gallery for its reception, the amount having been subscribed before the day of reopening. The Rev. Alfred Rowland, LL.B., who presided, announced that during his pastorate of seven years 2,000 guineas had been raised for various improvements in the chapel premises, the whole of which, with the exception of 50*l.*, had been subscribed by members of the congregation.

HIGHGATE.—An interesting meeting was held at the Baptist Chapel, Southwood-lane, Highgate, on Thursday evening, December 19, when the pastor, the Rev. J. H. Barnard, and his wife, were presented with an elegant reading lamp (the "Queen's Own") by the members of Mrs. Barnard's Bible-class. The lamp was of massive brass, and bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Barnard by the Bible-class and friends, December, 1872." A very touching address was read, in the name of the whole class, expressive of their warm appreciation of "the benefits which they had received both from the pulpit and the chair," and their earnest desire for the increasing prosperity of the work connected with the class and the pastor's ministry.

GOSPORT.—A Christmas tea was given to the poor of Gosport on Friday last by the friends of the Gosport Congregational Chapel; no fewer than 400 sat down to partake of the bounties provided. After tea the Rev. W. H. Jellie (pastor) presided, and, after some wise advice, introduced the speakers, Messrs. B. Nicholson, G. S. Blake, and W. Whitz. The most interesting part of the evening perhaps was the giving away of prizes to the poor. Among the receivers of prizes was an old sailor, eighty-four years of age; a soldier, fifty-eight, one who had been in twenty-one engagements; while old "widows," and "bachelors," those with very large families, &c., &c., received a share of the gifts. A pleasant evening was spent.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—Saturday being Innocents' Day, a special service for children was held in Westminster Abbey at 11 o'clock, morning prayer having been said at 7.45 a.m. Dean Stanley delivered a sermon to children from the 41st and following verses of the 2nd chapter of St. Luke's Gospel. He said that on Innocents' Day last year he had spoken of our Lord's example as a child generally. This year he would show what His example was in teaching them the way in which they should learn. Our Lord went about hearing and asking questions, and it was on these two things that the making of a good scholar depended. Children who would learn must listen attentively, and ask for explanations of that which they did not understand. They might all do something to make their homes happy, as our Lord did, and an effort to do so was the best Christmas gift they could make to their parents.

CLAPHAM-ROAD.—The United Presbyterian congregation in Clapham-road, in the month of April last, resolved to make an effort to clear off the whole of the interest-paying debt on their church due to the Henderson Trustees, amounting to 2,400*l.*, by the end of March, 1873. The Rev. Dr. Macfarlane, the pastor of the congregation, headed the movement with a subscription of 200*l.*, and it has been prosecuted with such energy and goodwill that promises have been obtained to the amount of 2,100*l.*, which, with the 300*l.* which will be obtained from the surplus of ordinary income for the year 1872, completes the amount aimed at. This congregation opened their fine place of worship ten years ago, the cost of its construction, including the freehold site, being about 12,500*l.* There is now only 1,000*l.* due to the General Synod's Loan Fund, on which no interest is paid, and which can easily be at any given time wiped away.

THE LATE MR. FISHER, OF BLANDFORD.—The cause of Nonconformity and religion in the county of Dorset, and more especially in Blandford, has suffered a severe loss in the death of Mr. Malachi Fisher, who has died at the ripe age of eighty-seven. During more than half a century he served the Congregational Church at Blandford as superintendent of the Sunday-school, an office from which he only retired five years ago. He was also for many years a deacon of the church, and rendered valuable service during the period following the decease of the late Rev. Richard Keynes. The church, whose history is in this respect remarkable, had never before been without a pastor for certainly 140 years, probably not for nearly 200 years. The pastors' names are few, only three for a century and a-half, and each succeeding pastor had been the colleague of his predecessor. Mr. Fisher was a most useful member of the Dorset Association of Congregational Churches, and its treasurer for many years. He was followed to his grave by many of his fellow-townsmen of all denominations, amongst whom, by his integrity of life and his valuable counsel, he had won general respect. He died Dec. 23, 1872, and was interred in the vault of his family in the burial-ground of the Congregational Chapel on Sunday, Dec. 29.

BRAMPTON, NEAR CHESTERFIELD.—On Thursday afternoon, Dec. 26th, the memorial stone of a new Congregational Church at Brampton was laid by Henry Lee, Esq., J.P., of Manchester. The weather was unusually fine, and the site within the walls of the building having been temporarily floored and covered in, afforded comfortable accommodation to a considerable number of people. A hymn having been sung, the Rev. G. Mabbs, of Holymoorside, as secretary to the building committee, delivered a brief introductory address. He alluded to the fact that although the ceremony of that day had been unavoidably delayed until late in the season, yet, as a work of Christian philanthropic effort, it was thoroughly in harmony with the associations of Christmastide, as set forth in the acclaim, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and goodwill towards men." Their undertaking was purely a missionary one, namely, to carry the Gospel to a working-class population of some five or six thousand souls, resident in Brampton. It represented no schism from any existing church; but was delegated to the present committee by the Derbyshire County Union, with which it had its origin. That committee consisted of representatives of the sister churches at Chesterfield and Holymoorside, who were doing the work hand-in-hand, desiring thereby to glorify God and to benefit their fellow-men. Mr. Lee, having been presented with a handsome silver trowel, by the architect, Mr. J. H. Kent, in the name of the committee, proceeded to lay the stone, a box having been deposited beneath it, containing the usual papers and coins. Having pronounced the stone to be "well and truly laid," Mr. Lee proceeded to address the assembly, among whom were a good many working men, upon the adaptation of Congregationalism to the wants of the masses. The Independent body had been accused of overlooking these, in favour of those who were sometimes called the more respectable classes. But he thought that this accusation partly arose from the fact that Congregational principles were adapted not only to meet men's spiritual needs, but also to raise men both intellectually and socially. As a body they had also been charged with spreading themselves by means of internal dissensions; but this was the seventeenth occasion of the kind at which he had officiated, and he had never yet laid the stone of a chapel which was the result of schism. Prayer was then offered by the Rev. J. Clarke, of Chesterfield, the chairman of the committee, and the assembly dissolved, after contributing about 43*l.* towards the 600*l.* or 700*l.* required to open the building free of debt. The style of the structure, which is of stone, is French Gothic, and it will seat 300 persons on the ground floor, with eventual provision for galleries and schoolroom. In the evening a tea-meeting was held in the Marsden-street schoolrooms, Chesterfield, followed by a public meeting, at which Henry Lee, Esq., presided. In addition to the chairman, who spoke upon the adaptation of Congregationalism to the requirements of the times generally, and to the wants of the various classes of society, with special reference to working men, the Revs. J. Clarke, of Chesterfield, G. Mabbs, of Holymoorside, E. Ireland, of Dronfield, and Messrs. J. E. Manlove, C. Tucker, W. B. Robinson, W. M. Manlove, A. Todd, R. Parker, and M. Connal, took part in the meeting. The proceeds of the day's meetings amounted to about 57*l.*

Correspondence.

THE MERCHANTS' LECTURE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me to inform your readers that during the time the Weigh-House Chapel is closed for alterations, the Merchants' Lecture will be delivered every Tuesday at twelve o'clock in the Dutch Church, Austin Friars, the use of which has been most kindly promised by the Rev. Dr. Gehle and the vestry. The Rev. Newman Hall is the preacher for January.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

THOS. L. DEVITT, Hon. Sec.

Dec. 27, 1872.

MILTON MOUNT COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I avail myself of your permission to add a few lines to the advertisement in your present number.

First, allow me to answer inquiries from various parts of the kingdom. Notwithstanding delay in the completion of the contract, the executive still cherish the hope that the college will be ready for the reception of pupils at the end of April, and that the more public opening will take place in May.

To inquiries respecting the mode and number of admissions, I beg to say the executive cannot at present go beyond the 110 pupils already accepted. They have scrupulously followed the rule of making "priority of application" the leading consideration, and happily this has given entire satisfaction. The same order of succession will be regarded in the future, and all applications are entered as they are made. Vacancies will occur at the end of the first year, many parents having pleaded that daughters of advanced age might be received for at least one year's thorough training.

The building is erected for the accommodation of 150 pupils, which it is thought will meet the requirement; and as soon as the subscription list warrants the step, this number will be gladly admitted.

The great concern of the managers is that their operations may not be contracted by the pressure of a debt. If before the opening of the college every congregation would give a half-day collection, that fear would be removed. The expensive item of furnishing and the erection once paid for, the further sustaining of the institution would not be felt to be heavy. The 150 pupils would pay 2,250*l.* a year; nay, a larger sum, since there are pastors who prefer paying more than 15*l.* a year with a pupil. Moreover, ladies in the north of England are endeavouring to secure the salary of our gifted head-mistress. An income, therefore, of about 2,000*l.* would suffice.

Sure I am when the vast and vital changes are realised which the past two years have introduced in the matter of the higher education of women, and the hopeless prospects of such superficially educated girls as desire to be teachers, that the churches will more generally come to our aid. That generous donors have so far enabled us to meet a long-deplored necessity, and one which was becoming imperatively urgent, is owing entirely to the loving thoughts of the great Father for the families of His faithful servants.

I am, Sir, yours obliged,

WILLIAM GUEST.

Birmingham, Christmas Day.

P.S.—Perhaps no one institution has done more for the United States, and for the heathen world than Mount, Holyoke, Mass., of which Dr. Kirk, the honoured Congregational pastor of Boston, is the president. It has sent forth through America and Asia more than 3,000 teachers, most of whom are now mothers and missionaries' wives. When that seminary was opened individual Congregational churches offered to furnish one room. May I invite a similar manifestation of interest on behalf of our English institution?

THE LICENSING ACT AND THE POPULAR SENTIMENT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The executive of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence League have published some news, which, to

put it mildly, is far more sensational than accurate. In their pamphlet against the Licensing Act, quoted by the *Licensed Victuallers' Guardian* of December 7th, 1872, they say:—"There is hardly a large town where it (the Licensing Act) has not provoked indignant protests and riots." In one large town, Liverpool, and five smaller ones, Hull, Ashton, Reading, Oxford, and Exeter, there were some rows. But why, on this account, should the executive traduce and slander Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, and the rest of the towns of England? Official evidence has been obtained by Mr. Alderman Randall, of Oxford, from the police officers of more than 206 towns, showing that the Licensing Act has increased their quietness and order, and, as a rule, diminished drunkenness. The evidence was reproduced in the columns of the *Alliance News* of September 28 and October 5 and 12 of the present year. The police authorities at Exeter say—1. "No alteration in the Act." 2. "The streets are quieter at a much earlier hour than before the present Act came into operation." The police authorities of Ashton say—1. "According to the Act." 2. "A decrease of 50 per cent. in the number of cases;") and 3, in reply to the question, What say your night police? "They speak well. The streets are very quiet after eleven o'clock; the new Act has [caused] a decided improvement here; less drunkenness, fewer assaults and petty thefts arising out of drink have occurred." But further, the popular sentiment respecting any measure can be better ascertained by a household canvass than by a noisy demonstration, in which men who have been drinking take a prominent part. When Oxford was canvassed a very large majority was found to be in favour of stopping the Sunday liquor traffic. I have not the figures, but I have those of a household canvass of Liverpool, Reading, and Ashton, and will quote them:—

	Householders only.		
	For Sunday Closing.	Against.	Neutral.
Liverpool	44,149	3,330	8,339
Reading.....	2,694	357	220
Ashton	2,577	753	357

Last session of Parliament I accompanied one of the honorary secretaries of the Central Association in visiting members of Parliament and placing the result of the above canvasses—and those of many other towns—in their hands. They clearly show that the Licensing Act, so far as it relates to Sunday, is a concession to a popular demand, and indicate that it will continue to receive everywhere the support of the people.

Yours, &c.,
EDWARD MATHEWS, M.A.

43, Market-street, Manchester.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me to add a line to the remarks of your assistant "C.," who, under the heading of "How it Strikes a Stranger," alluded last week to the uncomplimentary reception Mr. Craufurd met with from his constituents at Ayr, as well as to the return of Mr. Barclay for Forfarshire.

I confess I do not see what is to be gained by suppressing the fact that the repeal of the laws licensing prostitution is becoming an election question. When men like Dr. Guthrie head an address to the "Electors of Scotland," declaring this to be a question of "vital moment" "which ought to take precedence of all merely political ones, however important, in determining the choice of a representative," and when that address and other papers are being circulated very extensively, especially where elections are going on, surely it is unreasonable not to recognise the importance of the question.

I do not suppose that the Forfarshire election turned exclusively on this question, but the fact remains that Sir James Ramsay, who was questioned in almost every meeting about these licentious Contagious Diseases Acts, and defended them, was rejected, while Mr. Barclay, who is a decided opponent of them, is returned triumphantly.

Neither do I suppose that Mr. Craufurd's reception at Ayr depended only on this question; but the fact remains that he is not only an admirer of such "violation of the moral and divine law" (I quote Dr. Guthrie), but to keep the people of this country in prolonged ignorance of the subject he insisted on the exclusion of reporters from the House of Commons, in one of the very few debates on the subject which have taken place there; and the fact remains, too, that Mr. Craufurd *is* losing friends at Ayr on account of this, and that he *was* questioned publicly about it in the meeting alluded to.

Some readers will be interested to see in your advertising columns the first manifesto of the "League," which has been formed for the express purpose of bringing every constituency in the six northern counties of England to a knowledge of the nature of these Acts, and to "ensure the question of their repeal being made a prominent one at every election."

For the Midland Counties an Electoral Union has been formed with the same simple object, "total, immediate, and unconditional repeal" of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

No election has taken place for some months at which this question has not been prominent. Even Orkney and Shetland have been visited by an "agitator," and both the candidates in that remote constituency are pledged on the right side.

These Acts, passed in silence and secresy, will be abolished the moment the people at large understand their true nature and tendency; and I trust the *Nonconformist* will henceforth actively aid in the good work.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY J. WILSON.

Pitsmoor, Sheffield, Dec. 23.

STATE-CHURCHISM IN THE WORKHOUSE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—A Cambridgeshire correspondent acquaints me that for several weeks past there has appeared in the local papers an advertisement for a schoolmaster and schoolmistress in the Chesterton Union Workhouse, which advertisement states that these functionaries *must be members of the Church of England.*

Considering that the highest official posts have, by law, been thrown open to Nonconformists—that ecclesiastical tests have been abolished at the Universities—and that both the Endowed Schools Act and the Education Acts are based on the principle of religious equality, there is a degree of boldness, almost amounting to impudence, in this requirement which would be astonishing if we were not well used to such things.

That it is not the result of the accidental use of an old form of advertisement is shown by the fact that, as I am informed, a motion submitted to the Board of Guardians, in favour of throwing future appointments open, has been lost by seventeen votes to eight.

Yet Nonconformists are now told that, having everything they can fairly demand, their present dissatisfaction is utterly unreasonable.

December 31. J. C. W.

Epitome of News.

Her Majesty went to church at Whippingham on Sunday morning. There were also present at Divine service the Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold. The Rev. George Protheroe officiated.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and family spent their Christmas at Sandringham, the Duke of Edinburgh being with them. They have gone on a visit to the Earl of Leicester at Holkham Hall.

The *Daily News* says gossip is busy with reconstruction of the Government. The retirement of Earl Spencer may facilitate the shifting of Mr. Bruce to some other position, Mr. Childers succeeding him at the Home Office. There is also speculation as to some other place being found for Mr. Ayrton.

A contemporary believes that the forthcoming Estimates will show a material reduction in the establishment of the army.

Sir W. Channell, one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, has resigned. No successor has yet been appointed, but the names of Sir G. Honyman, Q.C., of Mr. Manisty, Q.C., and of Mr. Charles Pollock, Q.C., are mentioned.

Writing to Mr. Joseph Brooke, of Bollin Hall, Bollington, Mr. Gladstone says he has no doubt that the subject of extending the county franchise will be duly considered when the public mind is ripe for it.

It is rumoured that a baronetcy is about to be conferred on Mr. Bass, the well-known brewer, and member for Derby.

Mr, Justice Lush had a narrow escape a few days since. He was being driven to his lodgings in Newnham Park, Liverpool, when the horses took fright and dashed along the drive; but they were stopped after considerable difficulty, but not until the coachman was injured.

Mr. Bernard C. Molloy, of the Middle Temple, has been appointed Private Chamberlain to the Pope.

Mr. Law, Q.C., the Irish Solicitor-General, has been appointed Judge of the Landed Estates Court, in place of the Late Judge Lynch.

The Duke of Marlborough has been suffering from acute pneumonia, but his health is somewhat improving.

The Rev. F. G. Fleay, M.A., head-master of Hipperholme Grammar School, and formerly head of the modern divisions of the Birmingham and Leeds Grammar Schools, was on Saturday last elected to the head-mastership of the Skipton Grammar School.

Dean Ramsay, of Edinburgh, died on Friday, after an illness of about three weeks' duration, having nearly completed his eightieth year. He was well-known to English readers by his literary works.

The baby rhinoceros is dead. The clumsy old parent managed to lie upon the young one and killed it. The young hippopotamus, "Guy Fawkes," is doing well.

The working men of Wolverhampton and the surrounding district of South Staffordshire, assisted by merchants and employers, have presented the sum of £1,500 to the South Staffordshire Hospital.

Since the close of the year 1869, pauperism in London has declined 40 per cent.

Dr. Letheby's report on the sanitary condition of the City is very favourable.

It is believed that Parliament will be opened by the Queen in person.

There is a rumour that the Postmaster-General intends to reduce the ordinary telegrams from 1s. to 6d.

"Forfeits" at a Christmas party have led to an awkward incident at Southampton. A respectable young man was "sentenced" to walk down the main street dressed in woman's clothes. He did it, but was arrested by the police, and was locked up all night—sufficient punishment, the magistrate thought, for the "stupid frolic."

On Monday morning, at eight o'clock, Michael Kennedy, age fifty-seven, was executed at the Manchester County Prison, for the murder of his wife at Pendleton in October last. The culprit since his condemnation has been attended by the Roman Catholic chaplain of the gaol, and has repeatedly expressed his contrition for his crime. Calcraft was the executioner.

The Rev. Horace Waller, of Leytonstone, states that Dr. Livingstone has been refused every farthing of salary as British Consul for Central Africa since he left England seven years ago. In a letter to the *Times*, Mr. Waller urges that a telegram should be sent to Sir Bartle Frere remedying the error.

On Christmas Day a fire broke out in the vestry of the large new Wesleyan Chapel, Mansfield-road, Nottingham, and was not extinguished before the pulpit, together with much of the surrounding woodwork of the building, had been destroyed.

At Berwick Quarter Sessions, on Friday, the Recorder, Mr. W. T. Greenhow, was presented with a pair of white gloves in token of a maiden sessions. This is the fifth time out of six sessions at which he has presided that he has been presented with white gloves.

At Newcastle-under-Lyme a man named Harvey has been fined half-a-crown and the costs for kissing a young woman under the mistletoe against her will.

The body of a man was found in the New River, at Wood-green, on Boxing-Day. It has since been identified as that of Mark Cox, a Berkshire man, a "navvy" by occupation, and known, it is said, to the police as a bad character. He had, it is supposed, fallen into the river while intoxicated, and his head had stuck in the mud.

A melancholy occurrence is reported from Rhymney. On Christmas morning the wife of a workman employed in the district awoke, and found both her husband and child dead. The child had been unwell for some days, and for the purpose of giving relief to the mother, the father had undertaken to sit up with the little sufferer during the night.

Early on Christmas morning, Ann Hollyman, a washerwoman, about sixty years of age, was burnt to death, while intoxicated, in a back room of the house, 3, Wellington-street, Pentonville, where she lodged.

At Salford, on Christmas Day, the flooring of a mission-hall gave way while a tea-meeting was being held, and several persons were seriously injured. At Liverpool three men were drowned by trusting themselves to a leaky boat; one escaped.

The hearing of the libel case of Stannus *v.* Finlay, in the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, was concluded on Saturday, when the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 100*l.* The plaintiff was agent for the late Marquis of Hertford, and the action was in respect of a libel, charging him with oppressive conduct to the tenants, published in the *Northern Whig* of Belfast. A new trial will be moved for.

The strike in South Wales against the proposed reduction of ten per cent. wages in the coal and iron trades has been begun by the ironworkers at Merthyr and Dowlais, who left work on Saturday, and will remain out to await the result of the conference between masters and men to be held on Wednesday. The colliers, in accordance with the instructions of the executive, will continue at work until the 15th of next month, accepting the reduction in the meantime.

A young woman, a ballet-dancer, &c., lodged at 12, Great Coram-street. On Christmas Eve she was accompanied home by a man supposed to be a German. Early on Christmas Day the man was heard to leave the house; but the woman did not appear. Late in the afternoon the room was entered, and she was found dead, with terrible proofs of murder on her person. Plunder appears to have been the motive. At the inquest it was stated that death must have been caused by a large and strong knife. The inquest is adjourned. The Government have offered a reward of £100 to any person for information which will lead to the discovery of the murderer—an evidence that no clue has yet been obtained.

At Ealing, on Friday night, Walter Trinder quarrelled with his sweetheart, a domestic servant named Britton, and beat her dreadfully on the head with a poker. He then went home and cut his throat. He died the same night, but the young woman may, it is hoped, recover.

On Saturday afternoon a man named Turner was taken to the Hull police-station, charged with being drunk. He then stated that at seven in the morning he had murdered his wife. An officer was sent to the house and found the poor woman in bed in an unconscious state, with three large wounds inflicted with a hatchet on the left side of her head. In the same bed were two young children crying. Hardly any hopes are entertained that Mrs. Turner will survive.

From the later accounts which have come to hand of the wreck of the mail-steamer Germany, at the mouth of the Gironde, it appears that immediately after the ship struck the sea dashed over her and carried away all her boats except one. The crew and passengers were thus obliged to take to the

rigging. According to the *Courrier de la Rochelle*, the sufferings they underwent during the night were most terrible. At half-past eight o'clock the mainmast fell. Half an hour afterwards the mizen-mast also fell, carrying with it seven persons, who had taken refuge in the rigging. The waves continued to dash over the ship, and one of them washed away a woman and her four children. An infant, seven months old, died in its mother's arms during the night. It was not until day broke that assistance came. Twenty-four persons in all perished, viz., twelve of the crew and twelve passengers.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

RATIONALISM IN BERLIN.—It is announced that the Brandenburg Evangelical Consistory has deprived Pastor Sidow, of Berlin, of his living for throwing doubts on the supernatural character of our Lord's birth. Pastor Sidow has appealed, and the result is expected with much interest.

A PROPHET IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.—The *Nation* does not appear to entertain a very high opinion of Mr. Stanley's merits as a lecturer. "Mr. Stanley's first lecture," it says, "which is the only one we have heard, was, we must say, about the most deplorable exhibition of ignorance and self-sufficiency that we have ever been called upon to witness. It was unconsciously offered, or it would have been an atrocious insult to the public; and one could not but think that our British cousins must have been in a little panic about American good-will or they never would have taken up the heavy handful of being civil to our enterprising discoverer. The lecture," adds the *Nation*, "may be characterised as being composed of the most tedious enumeration of African proper nouns, varied by occasional bursts of *Herald* 'headline' eloquence, all delivered in an uncultivated voice and with a manner anything but enlivening. A large map hung beside the lecturer, but no use was made of it, and everything showed incompetence. People in the audience were long-suffering, but about one-quarter of those present left the hall before the lecture was half over, and others were emulating the example of the young African on the platform, who ought to have been in bed two hours before, and who in his drowsiness nearly bobbed his young head off."

WILL OF THE LATE HORACE GREELEY.—The will of Horace Greeley was offered for probate on the 10th inst. at the Surrogate Court, Westchester county, by the Misses Ida and Gabrielle Greeley and other friends, accompanied by their counsel. The will is dated November 9th, 1872, and is in Mr. Greeley's own handwriting, and bequeaths his entire property to the daughters of the deceased. The will is contested by Samuel Sinclair, Richard H. Manning, and Charles Storrs, who produced a will dated January 9th, 1871, where these gentlemen are named as executors, and by which the deceased makes a different disposition of his property. A protracted legal contest is probable. The last will of Mr. Greeley is as follows:—

I, Horace Greeley, of the town of New Castle, Westchester county, State of New York, aged sixty-one years, being in fair health, and in the possession of my mental faculties, revoking all former wills, do make this my last will and testament:—

Item 1. I give and bequeath all the property of which I may die possessed, including lands, mortgages, bonds, notes of hand, debts, stocks, dues and obligations, to my elder daughter Ida L. Greeley, and half to be by her used at her own discretion in the education and support of her sister Gabrielle, the other moiety to be her own in every right.

Item 2. I give and bequeath my gold watch usually worn by me to my second daughter, Gabrielle Miriam Greeley aforesaid.

HORACE GREELEY.

This will was dated November 9th, written by Mr. Greeley himself, but was not executed until about two hours before his death, when it was only acknowledged and attested, this being the first lucid interval after the will was known to his friends.

GARIBALDI AT CAPRERA.—The *Leeds Mercury* publishes extracts of a letter from Miss Winter, who has been zealously promoting societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals in Italy:—

I have arrived at Caprera. The general is well. He came down to the seashore to meet me, and I thought him twenty years younger in appearance than when I had last seen him.

In Caprera we lead a patriarchal life. We rise before the sun, and retire an hour after sunset. During the day walks and drives. Newspapers weary us. We are saddened by the past, and in the future we are more interested in the cause of proletariat morality than in the blind ambition of present and future rulers. We are greatly interested in fishing, and in the wild and domestic animals with which this island abounds. Among the domestic animals there are three horses (memories of the general's battles), two superb dogs, cattle, sheep, a goat, and several cats. The island abounds with wild cattle, goats, and wild asses. Pheasants, partridges, woodcocks, and quails are plentiful, besides thrushes, sparrows, and starlings, which fly about and sing all day as if in a terrestrial paradise. All the animals are loose, and roam where they will. They find their way to the pasture and drinking-troughs alone, and return to the stable equally unattended. At the hours of dinner and supper they appear at the north window to beg for some dainty, and seem to know that the horses should come first, then the dogs, next the cattle, whilst the cats stand on no ceremony. We have also a pet goat, which gives me a cup of milk every morning, and another to the General. The dogs are my especial delight; I caress them nearly all day long. All these animals seem superior in intelligence to those we are accustomed to meet elsewhere. La Marsala—the mare which the General had with him in Sicily in 1860—opens all the gates herself, and when the General rides her she assumes an air of pride and obeys his voice like a lamb, or rather like a child. One of the oxen was separated from the rest because he had a habit of butting the others; but they refuse to go to the fields if he is not set at liberty, and call him repeatedly. If a butcher appears in the island all the cattle run away in terror, appearing to recognise their executioner. I shall say nothing of the dogs, lest I should be tempted to say too much. Dinner and supper are frugal in the extreme. We have fruit in abundance, and the wine is excellent. I did not tell you of the poultry. Cocks, hens, and chickens are numerous, and you may imagine that we are well supplied with eggs. In short, when I said that life here was patriarchal, it was no exaggeration.

MR. MORLEY, M.P., ON THE CONDITION OF OUR PEASANTRY.

Having received a number of letters relative to his statement at the recent Exeter Hall meeting as to the low rate of wages and the long hours of labour of the agricultural labourers in various parts of the country, Mr. Morley, M.P., makes a general reply in the columns of the *Daily News*, premising that these letters come not from the districts specially alluded to, such as Devon, Dorset, Somerset, but from the countries where the peasantry are better off. To the allegation that there is great misery and destitution within a five-mile radius of Exeter Hall, Mr. Morley replies:—

In all densely-populated cities and towns there will always be a large residuum of mere dregs, hidden away in their crowded alleys and back slums. But the individuals composing this mass—some native and some foreign—though in the community, are not of it, and belong to no recognised trade or calling, rank or class in it. The agricultural labourers, on the other hand, constitute the largest, the most numerous class or body of labourers in the realm. They are not hidden away in crowded cities, but are scattered over the face of the country, throughout the length and breadth of the land. Many of them are now labouring on the same estates, the same farms, as their fathers and grandfathers worked upon before them, and both themselves and their habitations, and their wives and families, and their earnings and spendings, are always under the searching observation of the farmer and the landowner, the squire and the parson, and all the other inhabitants of their villages. Their condition, therefore, has always been well known to all these other classes whose duty and interest it is, as they themselves will admit, to watch over that condition and to improve it; and if it has not been cared for and improved it has not been for want of knowledge, or the means of better knowledge. The real question is what is, the actual condition of the labourer in some of the largest and wealthiest agricultural districts? To illustrate this point, Mr. Morley quotes the following contract between a farmer and a labourer in Dorsetshire:—

Copy of Memorandum of Agreement between a Farmer and a Labourer.

I, the undersigned Henry Cortney, do hereby agree with Messrs. Jas. and Geo. Mitchell, that I will serve them as waterman, and do the thatching or any other work at 8s. per week, house and garden, and 30 lug of potato ground, and do the carriage of the furze and turfs, and 1*l.* for the harvest, and ten shillings for turning off the water.

This the X cross mark of Henry Cortney.

This contract, says the hon. member, "is but one of numerous others made during this present year in that and the adjoining counties. In those counties I believe there are thousands of labourers now actually employed on similar though not precisely the same terms." He also quotes the testimony of a number of labourers made at a public meeting at Yeovil on December 6:—

Charles Wright, an elderly man, said he remembered the time, about twenty years ago, when the standing wages of the best men were raised to 7s. a week. About ten or eleven years ago they were raised to 8s., and last summer they were 10s. But after the harvest his master said:—"There's 5s. a week if you like to stay with me, if not, go home; I can't afford to give any more." Out of this he had to pay house-rent, 1s. 7½d. a week. If he worked at harvest time till ten or eleven o'clock at night, he got nothing extra; and on wet days he got nothing—he lost the time. This man had never received parish relief but once, when his wife died and left him with seven children, and then he had a little.

Abraham Burt was a farm-labourer, who had worked for 7s. a week. If he lost two, three, or four days a week owing to the wet, he lost the wages of those days. If he worked in the harvest field until late at night, sometimes he did, sometimes he did not, get anything extra. He had six children, and only one bedroom, and two bedsteads, and all slept in the same room. His house-rent was 1s. 3d. a week, and his club money 1s. 3½d. a month.

Henry Montague was a carter getting 12s. a week, with no perquisites whatever. His working hours were from five in the morning till seven in the evening (fourteen hours), and half day on Sundays.

Walter Montague was a shepherd receiving 10s. for a week of seven days, and lost time in bad weather. He had nine children; their cottage had two bedrooms, and he paid 1s. 6d. a week for it. He had no potato ground. Never tasted any fresh meat except at club time; and he had been sacked because he had joined the Labourers' Union, and no farmer would now employ him, and he was literally on the brink of starvation—he had not half food enough to eat. These facts, as to the present actual condition of the labourer in the western counties of England, were substantially vouched for and confirmed by Mr. John Mitchell, one of the county magistrates and a poor-law guardian, who was present, and who said that the labourers of those counties were half starved, and had not the means of obtaining the common necessaries of life.

Mr. Morley does not think the fact that the more prosperous condition of the peasantry of Lincolnshire does aught to mitigate the scandal of such a state of things as prevails in the western counties, where inquiry is resisted and "outside agitators" denounced. He emphatically defends Joseph Arch and most of his colleagues as "hard-working, industrious men, good husbands, good fathers, and good and orderly citizens, and sober men, if not total abstainers", regrets the scanty sympathy of ministers of all denominations with their movement, enforces the necessity of helping the peasantry at the present time, and concludes as follows:—"We have no right to expect that men who have been so poorly paid and so ill educated, should be able, without the aid of their more prosperous and better educated fellow-citizens, to discover what their position requires, or be able to adapt themselves to it. They are not learned in political economy, and in their ignorance and helplessness they have become so numerous in certain localities that their labour has become cheap—the supply greatly exceeding the demand. It is not because the farmer cannot afford it that he refuses to pay higher wages, but because there are numbers of labourers ready and willing to accept the lower wages. But there are other localities in the north of England, and in Canada, which, though not England, is but a more remote province of the British Empire, where the supply of labour is not equal to the demand for it. It is easy to tell these men that they ought to transfer themselves and their wives and families from the localities where they are in excess, to the localities where they are wanted, but how are they, without either the requisite knowledge or the necessary means, to effect the transfer? That requires just such an organisation as the labourers now possess in their 'National Agricultural Labourers' Union.' In time we fairly hope and expect that this union will be able to support itself, and to accomplish its purpose in sole dependence upon its resources. But in the first instance, when the expenditure is likely to be the greatest, and the resources the least, it is not likely that the latter will be adequate. They will require to be supplemented by the liberal and generous contributions of the public, which I would venture to claim on their behalf."

Referring to the disgraceful attack of the *Saturday Review* on Mr. Morley, the *Bristol Post* remarks:—"One would fancy that these words were plain enough—that no ingenuity, or disingenuity, could succeed in perverting their thoroughly transparent meaning. And yet the *Saturday Review* could see in them incitement, and pecuniary aid to 'plunderers,' or 'robbers in a hostile way.' During the heat of the Bristol election, when the maddened Tories of that excitable city shamelessly assailed Mr. Morley with the cry that *he* would interfere with the rights of property and rob the Church, then did the great-hearted Tory Lord Shaftesbury write the words, which, with his consent, were published in the newspapers:—'I should,' wrote his lordship, 'be grieved to omit an opportunity of saying how high is my estimate of Mr. Morley's wide and unceasing liberality, of his warm and genuine sentiments of religion, and of his desire to do good at all times and in all places. No man, I believe, feels more deeply, and no one, I equally believe, performs more conscientiously, the duties attached to wealth and influence.' Why has the Saturday reviewer gone out of his way to misrepresent and calumniate so venerated a name as Mr. Morley's? Is it, as the degenerate Athenian hated and wished to ostracise Aristides, *because* he was universally known as 'the just'; so the *gentleman* of the *Saturday Review* would fain annihilate Mr. Morley *because* of his 'WEARING THE WHITE FLOWER OF A BLAMELESS LIFE'; *because* he is a leading figure in that little band of earnest politicians who, looking upon life on the whole as a very solemn affair, remember that, like Milton, they are 'ever in their Great Taskmaster's eye,' men who show by word and deed that they respect themselves, men of dignity and truthfulness and blameless private lives, of dauntless courage and large understandings, wide sympathies and highly-cultivated intellects, who fight the good fight for England, not as our Puritan forefathers did on the battle-field, but on the floor of that great chamber on the banks of the Thames, from which so many millions of people expect so much, and, alas! obtain so little."

The Queen has been graciously pleased to present, through the Duchess of Roxburghe, a copy of "Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands," with Her Majesty's autograph, to Mr. Macrae Moir, as an acknowledgment of his services in connection with the Scottish Corporation.

The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers have contributed the sum of one hundred guineas to the funds of the British and Foreign School Society to assist in increasing the accommodation for training teachers in the society's colleges.

A new paper, to be called the *Methodist World*, is to be started by the advanced Methodist party, and will, we understand, advocate disestablishment.

M. Doré will shortly send three pictures for exhibition in this country. The subjects are, "The Dream of Pilate's Wife"; the night succeeding the Crucifixion, which he entitles "The Night of Remorse," a work treated somewhat in the style of Martin; and a "Massacre of the Innocents."

To understand the world is wiser than to condemn it; to study the world is better than to shun it; to use the world is nobler than to abuse it; to make the world better, lovelier, and happier is the highest work of man.

NOTANDA.

Last Sunday the Premier completed his sixty-third year, having been born in Liverpool, December 29th, 1809; and yesterday the ex-Premier entered on his sixty-eighth year, his birth having taken place in London, December 31st, 1805. Many happy returns of the day will we are sure be wished to each of these statesmen who have done so much to adorn political and literary life. Though they have both been for many years prominent characters, they are yet in the prime of their powers, and much as opinion may differ as to their politics, the world could ill afford to lose either. Nor, it may be hoped, is the day near at hand when we must bid them farewell. Lord Palmerston was Premier long after their age, and age it is well known is of a comparative character. The veteran statesman alluded to, says Mr. Smiles in one of his recent volumes, was once asked when he considered a man to be in the prime of life. "Seventy-nine!" said his lordship, adding, with a twinkle in his eye, "But as I have just entered my eightieth year, perhaps I am a little past it." Full proof this that the line—

"Press'd with the weight of more than four score years,"

was not very applicable to the juvenescent statesman. Neither Mr. Gladstone nor Mr. Disraeli displays many symptoms of Time's decay. Of them it may be said their "age is as a lusty winter, frosty but kindly," and one cannot but wish they may live to have a similar anecdote recorded of them as of Lord Palmerston.

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him," says the proverb; and this it would seem is applicable to the much maligned colony of Sierra Leone, which, as everybody would off-hand assert, is one of the most unhealthy spots on the face of the globe. However, a notable defender has appeared in the person of Mr. T. O'Brien, some time Colonial Secretary for Sierra Leone, who writes eulogistically of our Senegambian possession. Mr. O'Brien brings some pertinent facts to support his opinion, one of the most striking being that all the chief State officers who served with him in 1847 are now alive and well; and he asserts that it is the mode of life indulged in by many which causes deaths which are set down to climate. At the same time, he admits far more caution is requisite than in England. The colony, however, it seems, has much improved of late; civilisation in the form of drainage, reclamation of marsh land, and the felling of trees, having had a most favourable effect. It is cheering also to learn from so good an authority that the liberated slaves who compose the larger portion of the population are likewise progressing. Most of the retail trade is in coloured hands, many of the shopkeepers sending their children to Europe and England to be educated. Schools and competitive examinations are general, while drunkenness is fast declining; morals generally better, and the whole colony actuated by a more healthy life and spirit. Indeed, Mr. O'Brien has high hopes of its future, so that altogether it seems right we should believe that Sierra Leone is not so black as it is painted. The liberation of slaves and their settlement as colonists there may yet return England a hundredfold. Evidence is adduced to show that they are setting a famous example to other colonies, and may eventually prove the nucleus to bring about a better state of things in uncivilised Africa.

Numerous reminiscences have been called forth by the death of Sir John Bowring. It appears, however, to have escaped noting that at a meeting held in London to congratulate Mr. Bright on his election as member for the city of Durham, July, 1847, Sir John, then merely Dr. Bowring, in the course of his speech recited the following piquant *impromptu*:—

It was meet enough, and fit enough,
The House should be enlightened;
For sure enough, they're dull enough,
And wanting to be *Bright*-ened.

Lines which have since often enough been referred to by those unaware of the interesting nature of their origin. In the same speech, some may be gratified in knowing, Dr. Bowring spoke of Mr. Bright as "his youthful friend, about to appear in Parliament armed with the courage of youthful virtue."

Most interesting from its very title should prove the new work, "Madame de Sévigné: Her Correspondents and Contemporaries," about to be published by Messrs. Tinsley. Living in an age far removed from this, the fame of Madame, or more properly, Marchioness de Sévigné, as a letter-writer is yet green as ever. Born in Burgundy, 1627, and dying in Provence, 1696, even at this distance of time some French critics are found to affirm that her style is too etherial to be appreciated. High praise, indeed, and if it be true that "Nature's chief masterpiece is writing well," Madame de Sévigné can certainly lay claim to the highest laurels of the art, without danger of any writer in these degenerate days approaching [similar perfection. Perhaps the great secret of her success was the ability to enter into what she wrote, as one critic well puts it, "She is always touched by what she relates." The Comtesse de Puliga is the author of the new volume, and as "A Woman's Thoughts about Women" are always interesting, on so pleasant a theme as the queen of letter-writers, the work ought to be in every sense attractive.

In reviewing the "Hymnary: a Book of Church Song," just issued by Novello and Co., the *Athenæum* gives expression to the following rich piece of criticism:—"The colour of the hymns is neither so joyous as that of the St. Alban Hymnal," nor so grey and sad as Mercer, nor so dreary as the Sarum, nor so wild as the Anglican, nor so slate and brown as the S. P. C. K., nor so dove-like as the Holy Year, nor so neutral as Kemble, nor so stern and forcible as Blane, nor so violet and sober as Bickersteth, nor so gushing and godly as those of still lower tendencies." This is an age of condensing, and the above may be taken as condensed comment seldom to be met with; indeed it may be questioned if so many books were ever before summed up so pithily.

Mr. Armitage, who was last week elected by the Royal Academicians to the full honours of the society, was born in London, May 20, 1817. Some of the frescoes in the new Houses of Parliament were executed by him. Amongst the more prominent of his paintings are the "Disembarkment of Julius Cæsar in England," which appeared in 1847; the "Battle of Balaclava," the "Battle of Inkermann," 1856. In art circles it is generally considered that had the Academy made art the first consideration, the honour would have been conferred on Mr. Armitage long ago; though he was only elected to the dignity of A.R.A. in 1867.

New literary ventures of the serial and newspaper kind are the order of the day. The *Practical Magazine* is shortly to appear, and, as its title denotes, will be of a practical character. The *Court Herald and Ladies' Monthly Magazine* is announced for to-day. *Passing Events* is the title of a new illustrated paper. The *Musical Monthly* is the addition to the already numerous list of publications devoted to harmony. Other literary changes are that the *Illustrated Review* is to appear weekly instead of fortnightly, and the *School Board Chronicle* and the *Week's News* come down in price. B.

Miscellaneous.

ONE CAUSE OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—"An Old Guard" on the London and North-Western line, writes to the *Railway Service Gazette* to say that although the company's rules state that guards must keep a sharp look-out for signals, they have not a moment to spare for any work but checking parcels and sorting letters.

THE LATE SIR DAVID BAXTER.—The inventory of the estate and effects of the late Sir David Baxter, Bart., has been made by his nephew, the member for Montrose, one of the executors. The personal estate amounts to 1,098,809*l.*, excluding the heritable properties of Kilmaron, Myrecarnie, and Balgarvie. The paid inventory duty is 15,000*l.*

THE AGAPEMONE AGAIN.—After nearly fifteen years' quietude the inmates of the Agapemone, at Spaxton, near Bridgewater, formerly known as "Princeites," have commenced a series of revival meetings. One of these was held on Sunday at Hamp, near that town, and was largely attended. One of the two speakers, was Mr. Williams, formerly a clergyman of the Church of England. He declared "that the Gospel dispensation had passed away, and that the Judgment-day had commenced; that Brother Prince had the spirit of judgment, and had purged and purified their bodies as well as their souls." A large room has been hired at Bridgewater for the purpose of holding further meetings.

REPRESENTATION OF FROME.—Mr. Wm. Allan, of London, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, has been invited by a number of the electors of Frome to come forward at the next election as a candidate for the seat which will be vacated by Mr. Thomas Hughes. Mr. Allan has consented to offer himself, and has submitted his political creed to those who have given him the invitation. It may be stated shortly to be one in favour of the disestablishment and disendowment of the State Church; of manhood suffrage; a thorough reconstruction of the Licensing Act; a more equal representation of the people, with a redistribution of seats; and opposed to denominational grants for education purposes.

FAMINE FEVER IN LONDON.—The *Times* gives prominence to the announcement that famine fever (the "relapsing fever" of technical writers) has reappeared in the metropolis. Several cases have lately occurred in more than one locality of South London. These cases arose in families suffering from great destitution, and the popular name of the fever appears to have been, with respect to them, unhappily, a too accurate name. The attacks of the disease have been limited as yet to two or three families, but all the members of these families, young and old, have suffered from it. It is significant that, contemporaneously with the reappearance of famine fever, typhus has also appeared in South London.

THE BESSEMER SALOON STEAMER.—Mr. Bessemer writes to the *Times*:—"I am rejoiced to state that the very able men who direct the affairs of the Bessemer Saloon Steamboat Company have lost no time since its formation in issuing their contracts to shipbuilders and engineers, so that we may in ten months from this time hope to see the 'horrors of the middle passage' removed for ever. In its place an agreeable hour and a quarter's trip will break the monotony of a railway journey between the capitals of England and France. To this end, 'so devoutly to be wished,' I am looking forward with unbounded confidence, and with that intense pleasure which the near realisation of a great aim in life alone can inspire."

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.—Christmas Day was like a day in April, and as showery. Boxing Day was one of the finest for weeks past, bright and sunny, and the temperature was above the average for this time of the year. Business was generally suspended, and a vast number of persons appeared to be taking out-of-door exercise. At the same time the numerous places of amusement were crowded. The visitors at the Crystal Palace numbered more than 50,000, and more than 10,000 were at the National Gallery. In the evening the theatres were numerously attended. The charges arising out of Boxing Day, which came before the police-magistrates next day, were in only one instance of a serious character. In the majority of cases those accused of drunkenness were liberated with a caution, the fact that the season was one of festivity having been generally pleaded, with success, in mitigating the punishment.

MILDNESS OF THE SEASON.—A full-sized red butterfly was caught at the Bleachfield at Auchtermuchty on Saturday, 21st ult. Some primroses may be seen fully blown in the Burngreave Cemetery. Mr. Lory Marsh, of Greenhithe, writes to the *Times*:—"I have a strawberry plant growing out of doors which showed signs of fruit about six weeks ago. The fruit has gone on ripening and is now ready for the table." A correspondent writes to the editor of the *Standard*:—"I find in my garden roses, violets, pansies, forget-me-nots, laurustinus, feverfew, and mignonette, in full flower; daphne, narcissus, anemone, and bay in flower bud; crocus, ixia, snowdrop, and ranunculus above ground, and the lovely leaves of ferula communis still in full beauty; in the kitchen garden gooseberry bushes with their buds almost bursting, and the round red lumps of rhubarb well out of the earth."

IMPORTANT TO CLERGYMEN AND DISSENTING MINISTERS.—At the Oxford City Police-court, on Friday, the Rev. J. T. Raymond, a clergyman, summoned Joseph Porter, the lessee of the New Botley turnpike, for illegally demanding toll on the 22nd inst. The complainant produced a letter from the bishop of the diocese, authorising him to perform the ministerial duties as curate in sole charge of the parish of Minster Lovell, Witney, during the voidance of the vicarage. Mr. Raymond had passed through the gate on previous occasions, and paid toll every time with reluctance and under protest. The Bench explained to the defendant that the complainant was clearly exempt, and the Act, which appeared to be "as old as the hills," extended not only to clergymen, but to ministers of all denominations who had to pass through the turnpike *en route* to perform Divine service in their several places of worship. Mr. Raymond not pressing for a heavy fine, the summons was dismissed on defendant refunding 2s. 6d. toll he had illegally received, and paying a fine of 2s. 6d. and 8s. costs.

THE COAL QUESTION.—With the new year the Northumberland steam coal-owners intend to advance the price of that class of coals, for best, from 18s. to 20s. per ton, or simply to put on again the 2s. per ton which was the amount of reduction they made in November. The coal-owners also decline to make long contracts at this figure. The rates for gas coals are also very fully sustained, but the mild weather has greatly checked the demand for household coals. During the last week large fleets of screw steamers left the Northern coal ports laden with household coals for London and distant markets. Manufacturing coals are in great demand, and have a tendency to advance in price. In consequence of the high price of coal in Greenock, Mr. Grieve, M.P., and several other local gentlemen, have made a large purchase of coals which they sell at the lowest possible price to the poor. Many of the sugar refiners have had to close for the annual overhaul long before the usual time. Several large steamships are detained in the Clyde from the same cause.

FAMILY GATHERING AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.—On Christmas Day a very remarkable entertainment in its way was given by Sir Sydney Waterlow, the Lord Mayor, in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion-house. The Chief Magistrate of the City invited the whole of his relations, 210 in number, to dine with him, and 186 of them accepted the invitation and were present on the occasion. His father, now in his 83rd year, had the peculiar gratification of dining at the same table with his 13 sons and daughters, 49 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren. The Lord Mayor was supported by his four sons and four daughters, his four brothers and six sisters, 17 nephews, 22 nieces, 29 cousins, and one grandson. On the other hand the Lady Mayoress was surrounded by her stepmother, four brothers, three sisters, 12 nephews, 12 nieces, and 41 cousins. Thirty-four years ago Mr. Alderman Wilson, when Lord Mayor, gave a similar entertainment to his relations, and in the same hall, but probably the company was not so numerous nor so diversified as that of Wednesday last.

THE IMPRISONED GAS STOKERS.—A meeting was held at the Lambeth Baths on Friday, the Rev. G. M. Murphy in the chair, at which it was resolved to memorialise the Home Secretary for a commutation of the sentence of twelve months' imprisonment passed by Mr. Justice Brett on the gas-stokers for conspiracy. At a meeting of the officers of the Labour Representation League, on the same day, it was unanimously decided to move the following resolution at the general meeting on Friday next:—"That in view of the indefensible

sentence on the gas-stokers and the conduct during the trial of Mr. Justice Brett, who, previous to his elevation by his party to the bench, was notorious for political partisanship, it is the duty of all working men to petition Parliament and use every constitutional means in their power to obtain a reform of the unjust system adopted of appointing men as judges by political parties on party grounds." Mr. Bruce has declined to receive a deputation on behalf of the gas-stokers, until he shall have been informed of the specific points which it is proposed to lay before him. Mr. Bruce's letter was read at a meeting held on Saturday afternoon, Mr. George Potter in the chair, and it was resolved that the reply to it should be left in the hands of a sub-committee.

THE WHEAT CROP OF 1873.—Mr. James Sanderson writes:—"The continuous heavy rains during the last three weeks have not only totally suspended seeding operations, but also have caused serious damage to sown wheat. A considerable area of land has been submerged and must be re-sown, while on a large breadth of strong clays the braird is thin and sickly, and a considerable portion of the seed has perished. Indeed, deep chalk soils, which are little affected by either excessive rains or droughts—the chalk rapidly absorbing an excess of rain and yet retaining sufficient moisture in dry seasons—are the only soils on which the wheat plants are healthy and promising. The autumn-sown area is unusually short. In the counties of Sussex, Essex, Suffolk, and Huntingdon, not more than one-half of the usual breadth of land has been seeded, and, taking England generally, not more than two-thirds of the average acreage is sown. Nor is it possible that there can be an additional area sown in spring to balance the diminished autumn-sown area. The soaked and pulpy state of the land must make a late seed time, and unless there are severe naked frosts in January a favourable seed-bed will not be secured. Judging from present appearances, the area under wheat in 1873 will prove one of the shortest on record, and this following the most inferior crop which has been harvested for many years must awaken serious apprehensions on the part of consumers as well as producers. Perhaps a higher range of prices than those of the present would, by increasing the already liberal foreign supply, eventually prove the best policy."

THE INCREASED COST OF LIVING.—In connection with a memorial for an increase of salary presented by the members of the Civil Service to the Lords of the Treasury, some interesting statistics are given with the object of showing the increased cost of living during the last fifteen years. The following table, compiled from official returns, gives the average price from 1858 to 1872 of imported articles:—

Imported Article.	Quantity.	Average* 1858-62. s.	d.	Average* 1863-67. s.	d.	Average* 1868-72. s.	d.
Bacon and Hams	cwt.	50	1	48	8	55	1
Beef	,,	36	4	38	10	40	7
Butter	,,	96	8	102	9	110	6
Cheese	,,	48	6	56	1	59	3
Cocoa	lb.	0	6	0	7	0	6
Coffee	,,	0	7	0	7	0	6
Cotton, Raw	cwt.	77	4	151	4	88	2
Eggs	120	6	0	5	11	6	9
Fish	cwt.	20	8	22	11	22	9
Flax	,,	52	10	59	1	52	6
Fruit, Currants	,,	24	1	19	0	24	0
,, Raisins	,,	30	3	29	0	34	3
Hides, Tanned and Untanned	,,	65	0	60	11	71	10
Lard	,,	52	7	54	4	60	9
Pork, Salted	,,	44	7	46	8	51	11
Potatoes	,,	4	7	4	5	5	5
Rice	,,	9	9	13	0	10	8
Spirits, Rum	gall.(pf.)	2	0	1	10	2	2
,, Brandy	,,	8	5	5	10	6	7
Sugar, Refined	cwt.	35	5	32	6	34	0
,, Unrefined	,,	25	1	22	5	20	2
Tea	lb.	1	5	1	6	1	5
Tobacco	,,	0	9	0	9	0	8
Wine, Red	galls.	6	8	5	1	5	7
,, White	,,	7	0	6	10	7	4
Wool	lb.	1	4	1	4	1	2

ASSYRIAN DISCOVERY.—The *Daily Telegraph* publishes a second paper, called "What may be found in Assyria," by Mr. George Smith, of the British Museum. Pointing to the many questions which yet remain to be determined, he says:—"Among these we may notice the great problems as to the chronology and history of the Book of Kings. Such questions have for many years been the subject of speculations and disputes among divines and historians. The discovery of the remainder of the Assyrian annals, parts of which are already in our hands, will decide these and similar perplexities. The whole of the history, and almost all the literature, of the age of Nebuchadnezzar now lies buried at Babylon, and would form the most important prize of an expedition to these Mesopotamic countries. Here are the records of the captivity of the Jews, and from this storehouse they brought to the Persian monarch the copy of the famous decree of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the Temple. Again, the excavations of former explorers have shown that it was the custom of the Assyrians and Babylonians to place in the four corners of the foundations of their buildings memorial cylinders of baked clay, inscribed with records of the kings who raised the buildings. Many of these memorial cylinders have yet to be found, and, with our present knowledge, their position can be easily ascertained. In the royal libraries were also preserved, besides historical records, various works on scientific and other subjects. Among these may be named several classes of tablets on grammar, natural history, geography, and the useful arts, the importance of which it would be difficult to exaggerate. There were, moreover, many copies of the great Chaldean standard work on astronomy and astrology. This work, from the fragments now in the Museum, appears to have covered more than seventy tablets, and to have contained about 8,000 lines of writing. Complete copies of that precious muniment may be reasonably expected; and the subject is momentous for us as connected with the early history of astronomy. Few people know, when they look at the curious figures on the celestial globe, and mark the division of the stars into constellations, that this rudimentary task was accomplished by the Chaldeans; our own astronomy and mathematics being thus built on a foundation laid in Babylonia ages ago. There were also working records of astronomical observations and celestial phenomena, which will be very valuable. Only a few of these have yet been found. Again, the slight researches made in some of the Babylonian mounds have shown the existence of a curious class of tablets on mathematical subjects, including multiplication tables, lists of square and cube roots, &c. It would be decidedly important to obtain representative specimens of these for mathematicians."

* Fractional parts of a penny not given.

MORE HISTORY FOR ENGLISHMEN.

SOME time ago, as our readers may be aware, a Royal Commission was appointed to examine and take account of the precious documents contained in the manuscript collections belonging to the great baronial houses of England. One scholar after another had dipped into these treasures, pulling up, now and then, something of rare value. But in the absence, for the most part, of catalogues, of any sort of arrangement, or, indeed, of any sort of knowledge of the contents of the great chests which are to be found in these old family mansions, it was difficult for the greatest of Dryasdusts to obtain from them any important contribution to English history. There are the manuscripts in the British Museum from which Carlyle obtained the greater portion of his "Letters of Oliver Cromwell," but what an amount of labour was involved in searching for them! And yet these are all, in a certain sort of way, catalogued; while, in these private mansions, containing, often, thousands of similar manuscripts, mixed with all sorts of prints, papers, and accounts, nothing is catalogued or arranged, or for the most part known. There they have been kept for generation after generation, and not one of the inheritors of the fortunes or the titles has had either the curiosity to examine their contents, or sufficient public feeling to engage a scholar to make them known to the world.

The Public Record Commission, which is now pursuing its arduous yet undoubtedly pleasant work, has been engaged in it for three or four years. With the consent of the owners, which is always freely given, it has examined the written documents belonging to several of the oldest families in England, and has obtained from them several remarkable contributions to English history. Facts, for which historians would have been grateful beyond expression, have been brought to light; letters illustrating early characters and events have been dug up; and such, indeed, is the wealth of material that has been found that no future English historian can afford to neglect it. Let us, however, say this: the industry of several historical writers has been in proportion to their genius. There have been no harder workers—workers as such—in historical literature than Lord Macaulay, Mr. Carlyle, and Mr. Froude. The result is, so far as we have hitherto been able to gather, that the newly discovered manuscripts, vast in number and deeply interesting as they are, do not throw any strange or unexpected light upon the most material facts or the greatest characters of English history. They give us, rather, new details, accompanied with new illustrations. We see more of the life of the people—sometimes strangely more—but the colours and the proportions of character are not changed. Of course, we do not yet know what all these mines will yield, but some of the wealthiest have been searched, and we may assume that their contents are fairly illustrative of the contents of all.

Reading the third and last report of the Royal Commission takes us back through some four hundred years of English history—for we have manuscripts spreading over this period, now for the first time given to us. Since the last report a hundred collections have been examined, and in them we have specimens from the time of Wiclif to the time of Swift and Prior. Kings, poets, statesmen, and theologians of all classes are the principal contributors. Letters written hundreds of years ago, read only by those to whom they were then addressed, are now for the first time brought to light. They are published to the whole world towards the close of the nineteenth century. Who shall say, after this, that little things are of no worth? A mere scrap from a poor poet, written without thought, is transmuted by age into a jewel, while the letters of kings and queens, princes and princesses, have now a value infinitely beyond the character of their caligraphy.

What a wealth of literature there is in these old records, and how they can be gloated over! The richest person in the kingdom, in this respect, is said to be the Marquis of Salisbury, descendant of Elizabeth's Burleigh, and in his collection we have manuscripts dating far before Burleigh's own time Here are old volumes of unknown date; letters of Henry the Eighth's time; a mass of correspondence belonging to the period of Elizabeth and James—when Burleigh flourished—and so on down to the time of Charles II. The letters of Royal personages are extremely voluminous, while Wolsey, Bacon, Coke, and Burleigh himself come once more to life in letters that have never until now seen the light of day since they were first read. Then there is the Duke of Northumberland's collection, which extends to the 14th century—one vellum dating back to 1384; the Marquis of Bute's is singularly valuable, and so is that of the Duke of Devonshire. The Marquis of Bute's collection also dates back to the 14th century, embracing manuscript works of Wiclif of that date, as well as the poems of Chaucer. Whitgift, Raleigh, Bacon, Locke, Pope, Swift, Arbuthnot, and Gibbon, contribute to this magnificent collection. How we pity the historians and biographers who have been compelled to write without a knowledge of their contents, and what shall we say of the men who have possessed them, who have never—if they have known it—hinted at the fact of possession?

The Commissioners print several specimens of the letters they have discovered. Here is one on the Gunpowder Plot, giving warning of what was about to take place:—

Who so evar finds this box of letars let him cary hit to the king's magesty; my mastar litel thinks I knows of this, but yn rydinge wth him that browt the letar to my mastar to a katholyk gentlemans hows anward of his way ynto lin konsher (Lincolnshire), he told me al his purpos, and what he ment to do; and he beinge a prest absolved me and mad me swar nevar to revel hit to ane man. I confes myself a katholyk, and do hate the protystant relygon with my hart, and yit I detest to consent ethar to murdar or treson. I have blotyd out sartyn nams yn the letars becas I wold not have ethar my mastar or ane of his frends trobyl aboute this; for by his menes I was mad a good katholyk, and I wod to God the king war a good katholyk; that ys all tha harm I wish him; and let him tak hed what petysons or suplycasons he takes of ane man; and I hop this box wil be found by som that wil giv hit to the king, hyt may do him good one day. I men not to com to my mastar any mor, but wil return unto my contry from whens I cam. As for my nam and contri I consel that; and God mak the king a goud katholyk; and let ser Robart Sesil, an my lord Cohef Gustyse lok to them selvse.

Here is one from Charles the First after the battle of Edgehill:—

We take God to witness how deeply we are affected with the miseries of this kingdom which hitherto we have striven to prevent. As we were not the first to take up arms, so we have showed our readiness of compounding all things in a fair way. The same tenderness to avoid the destruction of our subjects which would always make our greatest victories bitter to us, shall make us hearken willingly to such propositions, whereby these bloody distempers may be stopped, and the great distractions of this kingdom settled, to God's glory, our honour, and the welfare and flourishing of our people; and to that end shall reside at our own castle of Windsor (if the force there shall be removed) till committees may have time to attend us with the same; but if that be refused we shall be ready at any place where we shall be to receive such propositions from both our Houses of Parliament. Do your duty, we will not be wanting in ours. God of His mercy give a blessing.

Rob Roy is a contributor to this correspondence, but one need not quote from him. Here, however, is a letter from Cowper, which will be read with peculiar interest:—

I converse, you say, upon other subjects than that of despair, and may so write upon others. Indeed, my friend, I am a man of very little conversation upon any subject. From that of despair I abstain as much as possible for the sake of my company, but I will venture to say that it is never out of my mind one minute in the whole day. . . . I have lately purchased eight volumes of Johnson's prefaces on "Lives of the Poets." In all that number I observe but one man, a poet of no great fame, of whom I did not know that he existed till I found him there, whose mind seemed to have the slightest tincture of religion, and he was hardly in his senses. His name was Collins. He sank into a state of melancholy and died young. . . . But from the lives of all the rest there is but one inference to be drawn, that poets are a very worthless set of people.

The commission will go on with its work, and no doubt other treasures will soon be discovered. Suppose they come on one genuine letter of Shakespeare? Upon some more letters from Milton? Suppose they get at the identity of "Junius"? These things are not unlikely, for greater things than these are no doubt buried in some of the dusty old chests which are now being brought to light.

EDUCATION OF MINISTERS' DAUGHTERS.

THE MANAGERS OF

MILTON MOUNT COLLEGE

Lay before the Churches and the Friends of Congregational Ministers an

APPEAL ON ITS BEHALF PRIOR TO THE OPENING.

The great need of the improved instruction and training of Girls is recognised by the best minds of the age. There is absolutely no class on whom that need will more and more heavily press than the daughters of ill-paid professional men. Most of them look forward to education as their vocation, and never were there better openings for thoroughly trained female teachers. But the standard of education required in teachers is altogether beyond their reach. For their brothers there are inexpensive schools provided by the churches, professors trained by the State, hundreds of richly endowed schools founded by private benevolence; but, strange to say, for those who more than sons must live by education, neither the churches nor society have made any provision. Christian benevolence has virtually said to those who will be teachers or mothers—"*We can elevate and bless our country and the world without you*," and society has left them unaided in the struggle of self-support. "I wish," says a distinguished lady, above all others competent to speak, "I could make known the heartrending cases which come before us of young women thrown on their own resources, and not taught in any one thing with sufficient thoroughness to make it of use in the struggle." The promoters of the College at Milton-on-Thames have before them distressing proofs that the education obtained with great eagerness at home is found inadequate to secure really good engagements, and that in many such cases life has nothing more to bring than mortification or want. But, on the other hand, to help a girl to pass the recently instituted literary examinations is to place in her hand a certificate which readily secures usefulness and independence.

The Managers ask that their position should be realised. To meet the obvious necessity, and advice from all quarters, they have erected a Building large enough for the applicants. Shall they look forward to the opening with a debt of £5,000? Under the force of pleading applications from parents they have resolved to admit 110 pupils from every part of the kingdom; but, although urged to have faith in the churches, their annual subscription list does not warrant the step, and they are obliged to postpone attention to other applications from ministers and ministers' widows on behalf of their daughters.

TO LADIES whose sympathies this object has won, and to not a few of whom the success is largely owing, the appeal is specially made. There are 150 partitioned bedrooms to be furnished at a cost of £10 each. Will no mother do this in the name of her child, or no sister collect this amount for sisters less favoured? There are class and schoolrooms to be furnished, and no money to do it; will not a lady canvass a congregation to fit up one room?

Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Sec.

Signed, on behalf of the Executive,

THOS. SCRUTTON, Treasurer.
WM. GUEST, Hon. Sec.

Woodville, Gravesend, Kent.

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THE *NONCONFORMIST* SUPPLEMENTS.

STATISTICS OF RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION IN OUR LARGE TOWNS.

Special Supplements were given with the *Nonconformist* of October 23rd, November 6th, and December 4th. The first contained the cities and boroughs of England and Wales with a population exceeding 100,000—fourteen in number The second gave similar statistics relative to the towns with a population of over 50,000 and under 100,000—twenty in number. The third Supplement dealt with thirty of the cities and boroughs which have a population of more than 20,000 and under 50,000.

The next Statistical Supplement will appear on WEDNESDAY, January 8.

*** The four numbers will be sent by post on the receipt of 1s. 10d. in postage stamps.

Arthur Miall, 18, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

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OUR STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENTS.

The last of our Statistical Supplements will be given on Wednesday next, January 8. It will contain details arranged in a tabular form of the places of worship, sittings, and mission stations of each religious denomination in the following towns containing a population of between 20,000 and 50,000:—

Ashton	Colchester	Newport
Aylesbury	Darwen	Scarborough
Barnsley	Dudley	Shrewsbury
Batley	Great Grimsby	Staleybridge
Burslem	Hanley	Stroud
Carlisle	Hastings	Stockton
Chatham	Middlesborough	

In this last Supplement we also propose to state as fully as possible the results of the revision of the foregoing tables, and to review the entire statistical information as affecting the religious accommodation provided for between five and six millions of our town populations.

It is requested that advertisements for this number, which will have a very extended circulation, may be sent early to the Publisher.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1873.

SUMMARY.

THE New Year opens with the appearance of more settled weather, which, however, the next twenty-four hours may belie; with newspaper discussion as to whether or not we have had enough rain for agricultural uses; and with the welcome news that the river floods which have inundated many districts of the country are subsiding. The last return of the Registrar-General remarkably illustrates the exceptionally healthy condition of the population, so far as the three million and a quarter comprised in the metropolitan radius are concerned. In the past week the mortality in London was twenty-two per cent. below the corresponding period of last year, the death-rate being as low as nineteen per 1,000. "The aged and the sickly," we are told in the official report, "have now suffered less than is usual; and as zymotic diseases were on the decline, the young escaped in great numbers. The abundant rainfall washed the air and diluted the noxious impurities of the water." On the continent this is the great day for family meetings and official receptions. Europe does not now anxiously await the oracular utterances of great potentates on these special occasions, and a Napoleon might speak in vain to excite Europe from the rural shades of Chislehurst. Peace everywhere obtains in the civilised world, and no serious quarrels require adjustment. Revolution is more to be feared than war, and is to be looked for rather at Madrid than Paris.

The last public speeches of the old year were delivered by Messrs. Cardwell and Vernon Harcourt to their constituents at Oxford. The Secretary of War spoke with his usual moderation and dulness. He had, of course, much to say on the efficiency of his own department, the condition of the army, and the value of the autumn manœuvres, but he did not give a hint of that reduction of the military estimates which is said to be in prospect. Mr. Cardwell is resigned to, rather than enthusiastic for, the Ballot and the Licensing Bill, but he distinctly intimated that "the great question of Irish University education has by common consent been reserved for the next session of Parliament," and that "measures for carrying further the views announced by the Ministry last session upon sanitary affairs and local self-government are under consideration." We may suppose that these measures will be put in the forefront, and that the intricate subject of local taxation will be reserved for a later period. Mr. Vernon Harcourt made one of his most trenchant speeches, ably turning the tables upon the Marquis of Salisbury, who had assailed the Liberals as revolutionists, by triumphantly demonstrating that the Tories and Toryism had never done anything but injury to the British Constitution, and that the Liberals and Liberalism have been the real protectors of every institution in the State. Mr. Harcourt was even bold enough to contend that, among other benefits conferred, Liberal Governments had saved the State-Church because they had made what was once "a dominant hierarchy" "the servant as it is the creature of the State." The friends of the Church, High and Low, will hardly thank the learned member for his eulogium, and its defenders better know whether "the reformed State-Church of England" enjoys the national popularity which he assigns to it. If the clergy, in the exigencies of their position, decide with something like unanimity to stand by it, can Mr. Harcourt be ignorant of the fact that the laity, mainly owing to the Bennett judgment, are deserting the Church in considerable numbers?

The National Labourers' Union makes steady progress, and an endeavour is now being made to unite the various associations that have been formed in the counties of England under one head—a step all the more necessary as farm-labourers are in many districts being turned adrift by the farmers who dread their combination, and whose victims require prompt help. Mr. Morley, M.P., who will receive but little injury from the gross calumnies of the *Saturday Review*, has generously taken up the cause of our distressed peasantry, and in a letter quoted elsewhere shows how much need there is for Christian men to co-operate in this good work of helping these labourers to help themselves to independence.

The French National Assembly stands adjourned to January 8. Meanwhile, the sub-committees are seeking to draw from M. Thiers more explicit explanations of his plan for constituting a Second Chamber, that they may report to the Committee of Thirty, who in their turn will report to the Assembly. The President is in no hurry to submit his scheme—if he has one—to the searching criticism of the monarchical majority. M. Thiers is supposed to be favourable to the alternative of forming an Upper House by withdrawing for that object some two hundred members of the present National Assembly—which would require a renewal of that Chamber to the extent of one-third, by a fresh appeal to the country—or by the election of an Upper House through the Councils-General. The last report is that nothing has yet occurred to "lead to the hope that an agreement will easily be effected with regard to the question discussed."

The French President, like other rulers, is troubled with a Papal question, owing to the difficulty of maintaining two Ministers at Rome. M. Bourgoing, who was accredited to the Vatican, objecting to the diplomatic civilities shown by his colleague to the King of Italy, has resigned in dudgeon, and is to be replaced by M. de Courcelles, a Legitimist of unmistakeable views, if he can mollify the Papal Court. Pius IX. is altogether sore beset. His furious attack on Germany and her Emperor has provoked an outburst of indignation throughout the Fatherland, and the newspapers of East Prussia and of the Polish provinces have been prohibited from reproducing the text of the Papal Allocution, and one or two that disobeyed have been seized and suspended. Moreover, the German Chargé d'Affaires has been withdrawn from the Holy See on unlimited leave of absence; and the alliance with Italy has been drawn tighter than ever. It would almost seem as though the Vatican were deliberately playing into the hands of its arch-enemy, Prince Bismarck.

Sir Bartle Frere has reached Aden on his way to Zanzibar to prosecute his inquiries into the East African slave-trade and open up com-

munications with Dr. Livingstone, after gaining needful information at Cairo and other places on his way. We may not have to wait long for definite and gratifying news of the progress of his mission. Sir Samuel Baker, who is striving by other methods, and under the auspices of the Khedive, to suppress African slavery in the district of the Upper Nile and Lake Nyanza, has met with difficulties, if not reverses, formidable enough to oblige the Sovereign of Egypt to despatch a small expedition to his relief. It seems probable that Sir Bartle will more easily achieve his object by pacific negotiation than his brother baronet by force of arms.

A.D. 1872.

IF the year just expired has not been productive of great events, it has witnessed not a few which distinctly mark the world's progress, and others which are fraught with future benefit to the human race. Adequately to review the annals of a twelvemonth would occupy much space and try the patience of our readers, but we may glance at a few of its prominent features.

In social and physical life, 1872 was a year of disturbance and unrest. Fine weather was the exception: excessive moisture the rule. Possibly this may have been needful in the broad result to make good the deficiencies of preceding dry seasons. But we have had to suffer the inconvenience of a very deficient harvest, simultaneously with a general rise in the prices of all commodities, and a continuous struggle between capital and labour. For the present the country is so much the poorer by the failure of the autumnal crops and the necessity for an extensive importation of foreign grain; and the almost unprecedented rainfall of the last three months of the year, though not injurious to the health of the population, has seriously retarded the agricultural operations of the season, and excited no little anxiety relative to our food prospects for the year on which we have entered. At home we have had extensive floods and storms, which have however been surpassed in devastating effects by those on the continent. In Italy and Denmark in particular, these ravages have been on the scale of national calamities, involving great loss of life as well as property, while around our own coasts, no such disastrous a season for shipping has been known for many a year. Rising prices and general prosperity have naturally enhanced the value of labour and the influence of trades unions. For the most part these combinations were successful, but they broke down in the case of the builders' strike, and still more signally in that of the bakers, police, and gas-stokers; though after all there has been some advance in the use of pacific agencies, such as courts of arbitration, which aim to reconcile these conflicting interests without recourse to dangerous and expensive conflicts. Our working classes have in general secured higher wages and shorter hours. But they are beginning to see that better pay does not necessarily imply greater purchasing power; for the prices of the necessaries of life have augmented in equal proportion. Their leisure time is now fully on a par with that of the classes above them, but the evidence that it will be productive of great social benefits to them is as yet somewhat scanty.

The most unique, and in many respects most gratifying of these industrial phenomena, has been the general awakening of the peasantry of England, who, under the guidance of trusted, zealous, and judicious leaders, have begun a movement for their own social elevation. The Agricultural Labourers' Union numbers several hundreds of thousands of members, and has its branches in most of the English counties. No acts of violence have marked its rise, nor can this pacific attempt of our labourers to share in the general prosperity be regarded as premature. In many districts the landlords and farmers also have shown a willingness to meet the movement by timely concessions. Its general effect will be to raise the value of labour and abate the inequality of wages; and perhaps to readjust the tenure on which land is leased. Hitherto the lot of the tillers of the soil has been hard and unimproving. The prospect of terminating a life of severe toil in the union workhouse is not adapted to raise our peasantry as a class. Their opportunity is now come. It does not seem likely to be abused. A remarkable spirit of independence and self-reliance has been revealed amongst our agricultural workers, which will pave the way for a quiet social revolution, and their ultimate enfranchisement when, as Mr. Gladstone says, public opinion is ripe for the change.

1872 was a year unmarked by memorable political events at home. At the opening of Parliament Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet had lost ground in public confidence, which was somewhat regained before the prorogation. As the session advanced it was discovered that a distinct and progressive policy worked out by a resolute Government could, in spite of some scandals and proofs of blundering administration, command the customary majority. The Ballot Bill was perseveringly pressed forward, and the action of the Upper House did not seriously impair its provisions nor prevent its final acceptance. It has worked well in municipal and casual Parliamentary elections, and even Conservatives, the Carlton Club electoral agents excepted, are willing to give it a fair trial. The Government also succeeded in carrying a moderate Licensing Bill which has somewhat curtailed the excesses of the liquor-traffic, prevented the increase of public-houses, and restricted the facilities for drunkenness. A plain and judicious budget, which avoided the temptations offered to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by a large surplus; a Scotch Education Bill more liberal in many respects than the English Act; a Public Health Act, increasing the executive powers of local bodies for the removal of nuisances; and a bill for the better regulation of mines and collieries, further helped to restore the damaged prestige of the Government. Early in the year and throughout the session the Treaty of Washington and the Geneva Arbitration were in jeopardy. But the patience and skill of Earl Granville surmounted the peril, and the final decision of the Geneva tribunal, though immediately adverse to Great Britain, was contentedly accepted. The event constitutes an invaluable precedent for the pacific settlement of international differences, and is one of the most memorable incidents of the bygone year. The Government are stronger and the Opposition immeasurably weaker in public confidence than was the case twelve months ago, and we are all looking forward to the announcement of a programme for the coming session which will distinctly embody Liberal principles, test the fidelity of the Ministerial majority, and perhaps evoke the resolute opposition of the Tory party.

France has during the year surmounted many of the difficulties which were the legacy of a disastrous war. At its close the Republic is more firmly established, and confidence in M. Thiers as its President more widely diffused. Two or three departments are still in the occupation of German troops, but they have been bought out of six or eight of the fairest provinces of France, and before 1873 has closed there is reason to hope that French territory will be redeemed from foreign occupation. This heavy indemnity has been paid with comparative ease. The triumphant success of the great loan for one hundred and twenty millions sterling, was remarkable evidence of the vast resources of the country. While the popularity of the President has increased, the prestige of the National Assembly has declined. That body is aiming to maintain a supremacy which public opinion does not sanction, by entering upon a campaign against the democracy—in other words, against Liberal institutions. The Monarchical majority are far more bent upon preventing the consolidation of the Republic, and in keeping down M. Gambetta and his followers, than in extricating their country from her misfortunes. They have reopened the constitutional question with a view of making a tool of M. Thiers. But they have to deal with an experienced statesman, whose position is stronger than their own, and who is resolved that France shall not be handed over to the rule of a reactionary faction, which would simply provoke a renewed struggle of classes.

Germany has also been the theatre of interesting political and ecclesiastical conflicts. Soon after the close of the war it was discovered that the greatest foe to German unity was to be found in the Fatherland itself, and that either the newly-advanced claims of the Papacy to predominance in the empire must be admitted or strenuously resisted. Prince Bismarck promptly took up an attitude of stern opposition to Ultramontane pretensions and found a trusty ally in the German Parliament. First the public schools were emancipated from clerical control, and then the Jesuits were expelled from the empire. State protection was accorded to the Old Catholic movement, the promulgation of the decrees of the Vatican prohibited, and the Bishop of Ermeland was deprived of his income for a wilful violation of the law. The conflict was continued in the Prussian Diet, where the landed aristocracy showed every inclination to a covert alliance with Ultramontanism. This combination succeeded in the Herrenhaus in throwing out the Government bill for reorganising district local government, though the King went out of his way to express approval of the measure. After a brief prorogation, the Parliament again met, and the Counties Reform Bill, which greatly curtails the privileges of the aristocracy, was carried through the Lower House. Some five-and-twenty new peers were created by royal prerogative—a much smaller number than was desired by Prince Bismarck—but it sufficed in this instance to neutralise the Junker party. The bill passed, and is already in operation. The reforming policy upon which Prussia has entered has been somewhat retarded by the timidity of King William. That monarch being unwilling to part with his old Conservative Ministers, Prince Bismarck has resigned his anomalous position as Prussian Premier, to which Count Roon succeeds. The Prince retains the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and remains to direct German affairs as Chancellor of the Empire. Even in the present composite Ministry his adherents are in a majority. Germany is, by the force of circumstances, committed to a Liberal policy, to which the Sovereign and his Tory servants in Prussia will have to succumb; and sooner or later that State must have a government which will be in harmony with the supreme interests of the Empire.

This result will be hastened by the ecclesiastical conflict to which Germany is committed. The Pope, under the guidance of his Jesuit advisers, has raised the flag of "no surrender." He shows no disposition to retreat from a position which brings the Papacy into collision with the civil power in every Catholic State. Although the influence of the Vatican, as represented by thousands of local clergy pledged to abject obedience, is everywhere great, few Governments are disposed to recognise his claims. Political reasons induce the French people to tolerate the assumptions of Rome, and wink at episcopal evasions of the law, but the Government are careful to send to Rome only vague professions of sympathy, while they maintain friendly relations with the Italian Court. That the Papacy was never of late years in such tribulation, may be inferred from the jeremiad of Pius IX., just before Christmas, and his violent attack on the Emperor and his Ministers, whom he charged with "savage persecutions and secret machinations against the Church," of "adding insult to injury, of impudently asserting themselves to be the attacked party," and of inducing the people to forget the laws of God—an attempt resisted by the clergy and their faithful flocks. The claim to infallibility has mainly brought these reverses on the Vatican; but though the Pope bewails the lot of the Church—that is, the Roman Catholic bishops and priests—in Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Spain, as he might also do in Austria—he has no thought of retreating from his dangerous position, and is perhaps only the mouthpiece of a Jesuit clique whose policy it is impossible to fathom.

Space fails us to descant on the prominent events in other European countries—in Russia where public attention has been absorbed in the tough enterprise of conquering Central Asia; in Belgium, where Liberalism is getting the upper hand of Ultramontanism; in Spain, where an Italian prince, too exemplary for such a people, makes but little way in consolidating his throne; in Italy, where industrial progress is marked and statesmanship weak; in Austria, where the advisers of Francis Joseph have not, during a whole year, discovered a method of welding together various discordant races in one homogeneous State; and in Turkey, where the frivolities and extravagances of the Sultan are hastening the ruin of the Ottoman Empire. In nearly all these European States a very large portion of the national resources is squandered on useless armaments. At the close of 1872 Europe is in a state of armed peace, and infatuated and impoverished France takes the lead in this deplorable policy!

During this period our American kinsmen have, in a state of virtual disarmament, been economising their resources, and making quiet progress in all that ministers to national well-being. They were visited a few months ago by a great calamity in the destructive fire at Boston, and nearly the whole year was absorbed in the turmoil of a Presidential election, which gave General Grant another four years of office, and proved tragically fatal to Horace Greeley, his antagonist in the strife. The President's Message to Congress early in December, is the best commentary on the present flourishing condition of the United States, and on the beneficial effect of the Geneva arbitration. The close of 1872 leaves no outstanding difference between the two countries, but a stronger spirit of friendship, and a firmer conviction that we should go hand-in-hand in the march of civilisation and freedom. It is difficult to believe that circumstances can now arise which will jeopardise this cordial relationship. That it is attended by substantial advantage to ourselves is seen in the steady consoli-

dation of the Canadian Dominion, our greatest dependency, without irritation or jealousy on the part of the United States.

SPANISH POLICY IN CUBA.

THE significant passage relative to Cuba which appears in the President's annual message to Congress has been speedily and correctly interpreted by Spain. The proposed abolition of slavery in Porto Rico is the practical comment which the Spanish Government makes on General Grant's anti-slavery manifesto. Far be it from us to depreciate the importance of a policy which promises freedom to forty thousand slaves; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico is a measure which ought to have been passed long ago, and that its introduction into the Cortes at the present time is manifestly designed to divert attention from the far larger and more delicate question of Cuba. All parties in Porto Rico are favourable to emancipation; and indeed the existence of slavery in that island at the present moment is attributable not to them, but to the exigencies of Spanish politics, and especially to the resistance offered by the Volunteers in Cuba and the slaveholding interests of Madrid and Santander. We must not shut our eyes to the fact that the pro-slavery party in Spain is irritated and angry even to the point of desperation by the proposal to put an end to slavery in the smaller island. So far so good. Inverting the usual process, they imagine that the lesser involves the greater, and argue, like the slaveholders of the Southern States, that the limitation of slavery necessarily involves its ultimate extinction. We wish we could believe that their logic was free from fault. Porto Rico is so small an island, and its influence is so purely local, that it would hardly be difficult for Spain to pursue one policy there and its opposite in Cuba. At all events Marshal Serrano avows that the act of justice which the Government now meditates in Porto Rico is not intended to be carried out in Cuba, at least so long as the insurrection continues. So that until the insurgents think fit to lay down their arms the innocent negroes are doomed to suffer the greatest wrongs which human beings can inflict upon one another, and Spain will, as at present, be content to entrust her authority to the pro-slavery party at Havana, who openly boast that, so far as they or the island is concerned, no Emancipation Act shall ever be worth the paper on which it is written.

The great moral value of the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico (if, indeed, that measure should hereafter be actually embodied in legislation by the Cortes) will be the salutary influence it cannot fail to exert upon the Liberal party in Spain. It must have the effect of alienating them more and more from the dominant faction in Havana, and therefore of compelling them *nolens volens* to throw the weight of their influence on the side of justice to the Cubans as well as of freedom to the negroes. Already in the Cortes one courageous speaker on the Republican benches, Senor Diaz Quintero, has denounced the Volunteers in language similar to that which long ago was employed in these columns. Speaking of the brutal murders of the medical students at Havana, and the expulsion of General Dulce from the island, the senator said:—"If there had been any sense of decorum in the Government, General Dulce would have returned with a squadron at his back, strong enough to force him upon those rebels, *for in plain truth the real Cuban rebels are the slave volunteers of Havana.*" And Senor Garrido, addressing the House of Representatives also in October last, delivered a trenchant protest against the deportation of twelve thousand more troops for service in Cuba. "Ah!" he said, "what you must do with Cuba "is not to send twelve thousand more men from "Spain, but send back from Cuba hither the "twelve thousand vultures which are devouring "it; what you must do with Cuba is to send "her liberty, and a great deal of it, because "liberty attracts, mollifies, and renders thankful "its recipient." Similar testimonies might be quoted from the lips of Spaniards no less influential and distinguished; but we have cited enough to show that the abolition party is gradually drifting into the position which it ought to have taken up from the beginning. Its leading members are now heaping the bitterest maledictions upon the ruthless miscreants who, in spite of the crimes and cruelties they have perpetrated in Cuba, have so long enjoyed the favour of the Court, and even the countenance of the King. The end is perhaps not so near as we could desire, but it is far from being as distant as the Havana mob anticipate; and, in truth, it needs no prophetic insight to perceive that the history of the Cuban insurrection has at length entered upon its last chapter.

Will General Grant precipitate the final issue? The six new war steamers, for the purchase of which the House of Representatives has just voted the necessary supplies, are said to be intended for service in the Gulf of Mexico; and the President has also shown unwonted vigour by despatching a special diplomatic agent to Havana for the purpose of furnishing him with independent reports of the actual state of affairs in the island. These facts are sufficiently remarkable without attaching to them an exaggerated importance. We do not believe that General Grant dreams of annexing Cuba to the United States, or that at present he contemplates more than the adoption of adequate measures for the protection of American subjects; but at the same time, any act of interference on his part must of necessity give great encouragement to the revolutionary movement, and prepare the way for a striking *dénoûement*. The independence, and not the annexation, of Cuba looms in the immediate future; and if at a later period this beautiful island is destined to become an integral part of the American Union, it will only be after she has qualified herself for such a position by a satisfactory novitiate in that school of self-discipline which we call self-government. The Americans will never consent to annex any foreign population until the latter have given every needful guarantee of their fitness for the enjoyment of those rights and privileges with which the Constitution clothes the sovereign States.

Meanwhile Spain is threatened with another Republican rising, and the King is said to take a gloomy view of the situation. How much the difficulties of the new dynasty have been aggravated by the infatuation with which troops and treasure have been recklessly squandered in Cuba, will perhaps never be known until that dynasty has ceased to exist. If Prim had lived he would not have made the colossal mistakes into which his short-sighted successors have fallen. He frankly recognised the inexorable fact that Cuba was lost to Spain, and would have yielded in time to make far better terms than can now possibly be obtained. It is, however, not too late for King Amadeus to retrace the false steps which have been systematically pursued since the Spanish Warwick fell beneath the hand of the assassin.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

December 30, 1872.

A return has just been presented to members which was prepared last session showing how crime in England has been affected by the Habitual Criminals Act of 1869, and the Prevention of Crime Act of 1871. We find that taking all England and Wales together, the number of houses belonging to receivers of stolen goods steadily diminished from 2,280 in 1867 to 1,674 in 1871. The number of public-houses, beershops, coffee-shops, and other places known to be the constant resort of thieves and prostitutes, fell during the same period, from 12,303 to 9,398. In the London police district the diminution of these infamous haunts was still more remarkable. The total number of houses of receivers of stolen goods, and other disreputable houses in the metropolitan police district, was 1,787 in 1867 and 1,139 in 1871. The Home Office has no hesitation in ascribing this improvement to the Acts named. In all parts of the country for many years prior to 1870, low public-houses and beershops had been marked as dangerous, but only in special cases could the police take any steps whatever against the proprietors. The Acts have given the police new powers, and the result is what we see from this report. When we come to committals for crime, we find that the effect of the Acts has been equally decisive. The number of persons committed or bailed for burglary in 1871 in England and Wales, was 371. The average for the preceding ten years was 512; and generally speaking, the total number of persons committed or bailed for the indictable offences, generally committed by habitual criminals, was 16·7 per cent. less in 1871, than that of the ten years preceding: the total number of persons committed or bailed for any indictable offence, being 15·7 per cent. Compared with the population, the decrease in crime is still more satisfactory; for in 1860, there was one offender committed for every 1,064 of the population, and in 1871, one for every 1,395 only. In the number of persons summarily convicted in England and Wales for 1871, there is a decrease of 8·1 per cent. over the ten years preceding, and to make the case for the Acts complete, a decrease of 17·1 per cent. for 1871 over the same period, is proved for the crimes generally committed by habitual criminals, and of 15·6 for crimes generally, irrespective of the discovery or non-discovery of the perpetrators. So far so good, but there is one little fact peeps out in this return which may cause timid people to feel some alarm. The total number of committals for burglary in England and Wales for 1871, was 361, while the total number of burglaries committed was 2,381. No other offence seems so difficult of detection. The number of persons committed for robbery, for example, was 309, the number of robberies actually committed being only 452. As a rule, the sufferers from burglary are people who keep silver plate and jewels in their houses. Burglars do not run the risk of broken heads and penal servitude without making tolerably sure that there is a chance of obtaining something worth having. Electro-plate they never touch. The writer of this letter once had his house cleared of every atom of silver in it by housebreakers, but a new set of electro-plate was contemptuously neglected. A curious question suggests itself by these Home Office statistics. Are we really getting better at the rate indicated, or is crime merely being diverted into other channels? What becomes of the people who would have been criminals without these salutary Acts? We should be too sanguine if we believed that they are all converted. Probably, the potential burglar takes to floating companies, or to swindling wretched tradesmen by fraudulent bankruptcies, and who, in that case, can say that we are much less wicked than we used to be?

The nail has been hit upon the head by the Labour Representation League, who have resolved, in view of Mr. Justice Brett's severe sentence upon the gas-stokers, to petition Parliament against the system of making judges out of political partisans. I do not for one moment mean to accuse Mr. Justice Brett of any conscious injustice, but still it is impossible to believe that a man who has been a violent Parliamentary Tory, and who obtained his appointment because of his Toryism, should not be insensibly influenced upon a political trial, for such it was, like this of the gas-stokers. Long before the trial took place, the evil of a redundancy of lawyers in the House was pointed out in this column, and all that has been said about it here is now confirmed most remarkably. From every point of view the political appointments of lawyers is most objectionable. They are the very worst members of Parliament whom we have. They come to the House with the most barefaced profession that they use it for their own advantage only, and they attend no Parliamentary business which is not their business—that is to say, which does not contribute in some way or the other to serve their purposes. The Parliamentary lawyer, too, is by no means the best lawyer, for the greatest masters of the science are naturally averse to wasting themselves in hunting after constituencies merely to serve as a ladder for their elevation. If Mr. Gladstone will but break down the present system of judicial patronage, he will confer an enormous benefit on the country, and the only counterpoise by way of loss will be a little legal patriotism which we can very well spare.

Some speculation has been current about possible Ministerial changes before Parliament meets. Without in any degree desiring to undervalue the present Cabinet, the temptation to a Liberal is irresistible when he looks down the list of its members, to ask why many of them are there. Mr. Childers and Mr. Goschen, for example, may be good administrators, but something more than a talent for administration is generally supposed to be a necessary qualification for a Minister; and who is there who can say what either of these gentlemen has done to deserve the high promotion which they have both received so early in their political life. What *have* they done? and who are they? is a question I have asked myself and other people many, many times, without ever obtaining any satisfactory or even definite reply. Fortunately for us, Mr. Gladstone is the Cabinet, and the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster are merely expected to do what many a Treasury official would do infinitely better; but still it is worth while for the Premier to consider whether he should still adhere to his system of making Ministers out of Parliamentary clerks, and whether he could not find below the gangway some gentlemen who would really be of some service to him beyond preparing the estimates for their respective departments, or rather taking the trouble to present the estimates when prepared by their subordinates. The mode of selecting Cabinet Ministers requires altering. At present, if a member wants to obtain an appointment, he makes it his trade to obtain it, and the trade is as well

recognised as any in the City of London. It has its rules and its mystery, just like the mystery of the Cordwainers or the Spectacle Makers, or any other ancient guild. Three months after the member has taken to the trade, the fact is well known and patent to everybody in the House. A gentleman might be named at the present moment—but he will not be named for various reasons—who is distinctly bidding for the office of Secretary to the Admiralty. Some day or the other he will infallibly get it, and the reason most certainly is not that he is the fittest man for the place, or that he has done any particular service to his party.

It is probable that the Arctic expedition will be granted, and that there will be a new voyage of discovery to the North Sea. The advantages of such an expedition may be assumed to be purely sentimental, but they are none the less real for that. There is the very great advantage and profit of doing something which does not pretend to be pecuniarily advantageous and profitable, of interesting the nation in a speculative object, and in teaching it that it is desirable to know what is at the other end of the world for the sake of the knowledge, and the knowledge only. More than that there is the advantage of employing the navy, and employing it in a manner most congenial to it, of stimulating its love of the arduous and of danger. The traditions and romances of the navy are its great stimulus in the hour of peril, and for so many years it has had nothing to do, and has been made so much a matter of coals, iron, and mechanics, that a little poetry put into it would do it a world of good. All this may be called nonsense, but yet because of all this I hope the Admiralty will grant the prayer of the memorialists, and that we shall hear something more of the wonderful land upon the stories of which we used to feed our imagination when we were children.

The staghounds of the district passed the village in which I happened to be this Christmas. More exquisite cruelty to animals I never saw, and how the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can prosecute the costermonger and neglect the staghunter I do not comprehend. The stag had been brought to the place of meeting, and was let loose with a start. Soon afterwards the dogs and hunters went off in pursuit of the wretched creature, which ran for its life across the country, the dogs howling after it. The fashion is, I believe, not to let them kill it, but to whip them off when they come up to it and when the noble animal has tasted all the bitter agonies of death; and that they are bitter we may presume, for a stag is by no means a mollusc, but a nervous, timidly excitable vertebrate. After the hunt is over it is put into a cart and reserved for another day. One of the redcoats while galloping along the flinty road was thrown violently from his horse, which seemed to roll right over him. He was a melancholy object when he got up, smothered with mud and complaining piteously of his back. In Christian charity I did all I could to help him, but it was done not without a secret wicked under-feeling of content that he should have been punished for his brutality. If a magistrate or a squire were once pursued for five or six miles by bloodhounds over hedges and ditches, and could be made intimately to comprehend that his suffering was just what he caused the stag to suffer, there would then be an end to stag-hunting, for he would grow so eloquent against it that all England would listen. C.

ORANGE-PEEL.—Oranges are in season, and so, unfortunately, is that species of idiocy which manifests itself in throwing orange-peel on the footpaths. We do not wish anybody any harm, but we should like to see the thoughtless people who in this way jeopardise the limbs of others condemned to a few involuntary slides and back falls on these traps of their own making. A little experience of this kind might make them more thoughtful, and induce them to refrain from increasing the dangers of the streets, which are certainly numerous enough at the best.—*City Press.*

WASTE OF PAPER.—The *Publishers' Circular*, referring to the inadequate supply of materials for making good paper, says:—"Some saving might be made, since we shall be forced to economise, in letter and note paper. Why should not society submit to allow it to be proper and fashionable to send only one leaf or half-a-sheet of note or letter paper, since, in seven cases out of ten, letters are written on one side only? 'Paper-sparing Pope' set a very good example more than a century and a half ago in writing his poems, and even his letters to noblemen and gentlemen, on the blank half-sheets torn from the letters he had received; and, as may be seen by his MSS. in the British Museum, contrived to utilise the blank sides of the wrappers or envelopes of such letters. Would we had more paper-sparers among us!"

Literature.

*RITUALISTIC CHURCH REFORMERS.**

The Ritualists will certainly lose nothing for lack of courage, enterprise, or energy. If they are not or do not even believe themselves masters of the situation, they have, at all events, a power of talking and acting as though they were, which has its effect on a certain class of minds. We have before us a volume of essays on "Ecclesiastical Reform," designed, we suppose, as a sort of counterblast to the suggestions and proposals of the opposite party, which show how little they are disposed to acquiesce in any scheme for giving the Anglican Church a more Protestant character, how determined they are to strive to make it conform more to the "Catholic" ideal. They have, in their own view, become "a force in the Com-"monwealth," and they are resolved to make their power felt. It must be admitted, in their favour, that they have a strong, almost passionate devotion, to the system they advocate. They never speak in hesitating and uncertain tones, as if doubtful of their own position, and prepared to listen to any fair proposals of compromise. There is a glow of warmth, earnestness, and zeal, in their utterances, which favourably impresses even those who, like ourselves, are in strongest antagonism to their principles and objects, even though at times it irritates by the uncharitableness and arrogance it induces to others. If it were possible for them to show as much zeal for their own views without manifesting so much supercilious scorn and contempt for others, if, while retaining their intensity of conviction, they had less of dogmatism in their mode of asserting it, if in maintaining what they believe to be their rights they could show more respect to the consciences and rights of others, they would produce a better effect. But this, we suppose, is too much to ask from those who hold a theory which must be exclusive or it is nothing. Of their ability, their diligence, "in season and out of season" their fearlessness in exposing evils, and their unshrinking boldness in the advocacy of the most Radical reforms, this volume furnishes abundant proof; but at the same time it indicates also their increasing hate for Protestantism, and devotion to Romish ideas. We confess that looking at it altogether it is to us a somewhat portentous phenomenon, for it is a sign of the growing strength and audacity of the party from whom it proceeds. We are not prepared to accept their own estimate of their progress, but there is, at least, enough of truth in it to awaken the anxiety of all who are anxious for the maintenance of Protestant truth and liberty, and seriously to alarm all who believe that the National Church is the real bulwark of that Protestantism. Forty-five years have passed away since the publication of "The Christian Year,"—the hour from which Mr. Shipley dates the commencement of the movement, and now "that which began as a school in a university "has become a party in the empire. Oxford, "and the class it represented, supplied the first "disciples to the renewed faith from amongst "college fellows, country clergy, and private "gentlemen. Commerce, manufactures, busi-"ness, and trade, both at home and in the colo-"nies, supply its latest adherents." Especially, according to this writer, has it attracted the sympathies of the great middle class. The metropolis has been largely affected by the influence of its missions, both in the east and the west, and, what we suppose is to be regarded as one of the crowning triumphs, "has at length "yielded its cathedral church to the irresistible "claims of the revived teaching." This is no doubt a sanguine view, but it would be idle to pretend that its representations are wholly unfounded, or that the most liberal discount which could fairly be taken from them would substantially alter the evidence thus given of the change which has already been wrought in the character of the Anglican Church by the action of the "Catholic" party. It has, of course, been so gradually developed that its progress might well be unobserved, but it has now become too apparent to be ignored, and it is certain to affect the views of Nonconformists in relation to the Church. While the Evangelicals were the active and predominant party among her clergy, and the character of her teaching, especially in the large towns, was moulded by their influence, there was in the minds of many Nonconformists a reluctance, which it would be more easy to explain than to justify, to disturb the Establishment. It is never pleasant for those who desire to move in what is called "good society" to join in a movement against a fashionable institution, and those who shrank from such action found an excuse in the fact that the clergy preached the same Gospel as Dissenting ministers. But now that all this is being changed—that Evangelical principles seem to find less favour among the clergy every year, and, above all, that the law has decided that teaching essentially Romish shall be tolerated—the situation is entirely altered, as we suspect the supporters of the State Church will not be long in discovering. What effect these essays may have in advancing the Ritualistic scheme of ecclesiastical reform we do not profess to divine; but as they become known, they are certainly likely to increase the zeal of Nonconformists for disestablishment.

The very demand for this reform is itself confessedly a great development of the Catholic revival, itself the fruit of the successes already realised. Certainly, twenty years ago, had a number of clergymen produced a book like this, they would have been regarded as men who were ready to pass over to Rome. That no such feelings will be excited now is due to the fact that the mind of the nation has become so accustomed to the existence of a bitter anti-Protestant and semi-Romish party in the Anglican Church, that they can find the utmost freedom for the development of their sacerdotal and sacramentarian superstitions without leaving the Church of their fathers. They desire little more, except that legislative reform should carry out consistently the ideas and principles for which they have secured a position in the Establishment. First, they were able to introduce "Catholic" doctrine; then followed "Catholic" ritual; they want now to have reform on "Catholic" principles; and it seems to them only the necessary and natural outgrowth. "Reasserted dogma among "the intellectual paved the way for restored "ceremonial amongst the masses, and the "double conjunction on either side gives "strength for an appeal in favour of reform. "For this point has been gained: the Oxford "school having taught the elementary truths "of Christianity, and the Ritual party having "exhibited the principles of Divine worship, "the Catholic Revival now declares in favour "of ecclesiastical reform. . . Either phase "of Tractarianism, apart from this latter "stage of progress, would be left im-"perfect. Both have prospered so mar-"vellously, specially the second phase, "during the last few years, and under the in-"fluence of prosecutions, that the final advance "may be anticipated without presumption." That advance means a change in the relations of the Church and State, which are characterised as "unreal in union, abnormal in "principle, and inconsistent in detail," and which "ought to be readjusted in favour of the "former. A reform in the constitution, and "an enlargement of the powers of Convocation, "with a repeal of the Acts of Præmunire and "the submission of the clergy," a restoration of Church discipline, a transfer of the power in the Ecclesiastical suits from civil to ecclesiastical authorities, and an entire revolution in the system of patronage, and indeed, of Church appointments generally. Every article in this programme demands a separate discussion, and which we cannot attempt here. The subjects are all ably treated in the different essays, but the writers are more successful in pointing out abuses than in suggesting remedies. Altogether, there are eight essays, most of them written by men of mark in the party. The Editor deals with the general question of Church and State on the principles laid down in his recent article in the *Contemporary Review*. Mr. Blenkinsopp, discusses the various points connected with "Convocation and other Synods." Mr. Chambers writes on the "Decay of Discipline," and Mr. J. W. Lea on the "Rights of the Laity." Mr. Prichard seems to revel in an exhibition of the abuses of "Patronage," and Mr. W. J. Knox Little examines the "Relation of Creeds to "Reform." The confidence with which the essayists set forth their views might disquiet their opponents, and especially Nonconformists, were it not for the assurance that Church reform will certainly never take the direction here indicated, and that the very agitation for it is a disintegrating process. The editor proposes to form a political party on "Church "principles," which shall act irrespectively of all political considerations, and support Liberal or Tory impartially, according as either accepts its views; but any one familiar with political life in this country will simply smile at so extremely verdant a suggestion. Action of this character would soon produce a counteracting one on the opposite side, and the result cannot be doubtful. Meanwhile, the position of affairs is this—We have two parties, both declaring that if there is not Church reform

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* *Ecclesiastical Reform.* Eight Essays by Various Writers. Edited by ORBY SHIPLEY, M.A. (London: Longman, Green, and Co.)

there must be disestablishment, and yet so diametrically opposed to each other, that it is impossible that both can carry out their views. The probability is neither will; that there will be no reform at all, and then on the confession of both there must be disestablishment.

*DISCIPLE LIFE.**

Mr. Maccoll is well-known by his work "in "the wynds" of Glasgow. The series of discourses which he now gives to the world can hardly fail to add to his reputation. They are short, compact, fresh in thought and style—capital models for those who have to speak for God to the ignorant and careless souls that crowd and herd together in the back slums of our great cities. For the most part he is content to take up an incident or a series of incidents in the life of our Lord, or a parable or string of parables, and to narrate them in his own words, adding, however, touches of comment and description which are singularly vivid and suggestive. That he adopts this simple method of teaching, not from indolence or incapacity to speak in a more thoughtful and elaborate style, but only from a just conviction of its power with his special audience, is abundantly evident as in many other passages so also in this:—

"Like the earth, the Scriptures may seem at first sight to have many materials that, although of prime importance to other generations, are of slight value to us; of interest now, more to the curious and the scientific, than to the great bulk of men. What we need most, we are apt to think, lies latest, like the upper surface of the earth, rich and full of life, and ready to repay in immediate fruit whatever labour may be expended. But the more we turn up the later layers of Revelation, the more we shall discover the necessities of our life forcing us to break in upon the various strata that lie deeper. In the submerged life of previous ages of faith we shall find the best fuel for sustaining our household heat, and producing our world-subduing power; and in myriad particles that have filtered through living waters long ago, or have been fused into primary rock by fire that still burns at the central heart, we shall find not only the precious metals, but the precious masonry with which our most abiding structures are to be formed. The more we examine the structure of Scripture, the more we shall be satisfied that each book, and set of books, has its permanent place and function in the perfect organism of revelation. It is only at particular periods, and in special circumstances, that this and the other members of the living body of truth may come into special prominence; but the complete life is in the whole; one member cannot be substituted for another, and a few cannot, with any healthy use of revelation, be taken for all."

The sustained power with which the geological figure is drawn out in this extract from the introduction is often equally conspicuous in the simple and telling discourses which follow it. Here, for example, is a passage from a sermon on "The Leaven of the Pharisees," in which it is admirably apparent,—

"The hypocrite was a player, one disguised with a mask, counterfeiting some well-known part on the stage. At first the mask was a rude contrivance. Every one knew that some other person was personating a character for play. No one was deceived. But a higher art was introduced. The player learned to make a mask of his own features. He so managed his face, his voice, his dress, and other accompaniments, that, for hours, an audience might almost imagine it was reality rather than play, and laugh or weep as the play went on. But the spell was soon past, and the player might be called to the front to receive, in his own proper person, the reward of his art. But the player took gradually to another stage, and with higher art—to a stage that was not called a stage, and without giving his audience warning that it was a play that was going on. It was but a few steps from the theatre to the street, the market, the forum, the church. Players became so skilful that they deceived themselves; and the parts they had gradually and with difficulty learned, they could not lay aside. Such is the natural history of hypocrites."

We have suffered this book to speak for itself. "Good wine needs no bush," especially to those who have tasted the wine; and we have thought it better to offer our readers a taste of the sound and wholesome "wine" with which Mr. Maccoll cheers the hearts of the poor and thirsty of Glasgow, than to flourish our critical "bush" before their eyes.

ST. DOMINGO AND THE UNITED STATES.†

Mr. Hazard's comprehensive work on St. Domingo, while interesting to all who are desirous of tracing the fortunes of the negro race in that remarkable island, is particularly addressed to those who are anxious to possess the means of forming a judgment on President Grant's annexation policy. Mr. Hazard has written with the avowed purpose of vindicating that policy; and it is therefore much to his credit that, instead of loading his pages with the special pleadings of a partisan, he has given to the public a mass of information which is not dependent for its value upon the fate of those schemes for the annexation of the Spanish portion of the island which have repeatedly brought the President into collision, not only with Congress, but also with a majority of his own supporters in that body. Our author is so impartial an historian, and so indisposed to sacrifice truth in order to gratify a party predilection, that his book constitutes a more formidable indictment against the policy which he advocates, than any or all of the speeches which Senator Sumner has delivered on the opposite side. Mr. Hazard shows incontestably that the chronic state of the Dominican Republic is one of conspiracy and revolution; that the country is infested with military adventurers, big and little; that the anarchical spirit which runs riot among all classes, is fatal to public order and progressive improvement; and that even when a lucky turn of the revolutionary wheel brings to the surface so patriotic a ruler as General Baez, the present chief magistrate, he is hardly more secure than the most worthless of his predecessors. It is true that Mr. Hazard gives evidence of a desire on the part of the people to form a connection with the United States as the only means of shaking off the horde of military ruffians who have too long desolated the Republic, but the Americans may be excused if they hesitate before giving effect to a testimony which necessarily rests upon a somewhat superficial basis. Baez is now doing what Santana did before him. The former tells the United States that the Dominicans are thirsting to become American citizens; while the latter, so recently as 1861, made similar advances to Spain, and masked his treachery by a popular vote in favour of the restoration of the old tyranny. We know what followed from Santana's hateful turpitude—the establishment of a Government which proved so intolerable that there ensued a four years' civil war, in which every conceivable horror was perpetrated. But even if Spain had mended her ways, it may well be doubted whether she could have maintained her footing in the island without a perpetual expenditure of blood and treasure. President Baez's motives were as praiseworthy as those of his predecessor were execrable; but prudential motives may fairly restrain even the annexation zeal of the advocates of the Monroe doctrine. To have to keep in the island a large military force to maintain its authority, would unquestionably place the great Republic in a painfully false position, and it is therefore essential that the anxiety of the Dominicans to live under the stars and the stripes should be made more conclusive than it has been by the report of two or three peripatetic Commissioners, or by the chance conversations of observant correspondents like Mr. Hazard. There is another consideration which should also weigh with the Government at Washington. It is that the eastern end of the island, and by far the largest section of the population, are included within the limits of the Republic of Hayti, inhabited mainly by negroes of French descent, and incessantly at variance with their neighbours, the quondam subjects of Spain. Mr. Hazard testifies to the strong antipathy with which the Haytians regard the proposal to annex the Spanish portion of the island to the United States. They received him with a feeling of jealousy and suspicion of which he gives one or two amusing examples; and the knowledge of their prejudice on the subject which he thus acquired appears to have had its share in influencing him to paint the Haytians in very unflattering colours. For our part, we do not see any difference between the two Republics. If Hayti has been demoralised by civil war and torn to pieces by contending factions, it is clear that this also has been the fate of the Dominicans; while the notorious indolence of the people in both sections is primarily due to the same cause. Men will not labour without a sufficient motive—at all events, they must have personal security and that tranquillity which can only be afforded by a settled Government. Mr. Hazard endeavours to establish a difference between the two republics, of course at the expense of Hayti, where the terrors of revolution have been intensified by the sanguinary passions of many of its rulers from the days of Dessalines and Christophe to those of Souloque, whose soubriquet of Napoleon the Little was earned by a *coup d'état* hardly less cruel than that of the Second of December, and who, in spite of his acknowledged courage and a certain rude capacity, practised the craven and heathenish rites of the Vandoux in one of the apartments of the palace at Port au Prince. But military tyrants are common to both Republics; and if the Spanish negroes can boast of their Baez, the descendants of the old French population may point with equal pride to Geffrard, a man whom Mr. Hazard unaccountably depreciates, but whose administration was honourably distinguished by the efforts he made to evolve order out of chaos, and to promote the cause of industry and education. Mr. Hazard dwells too much on the grotesque aspects of life in Hayti, and makes too little allowance for the disastrous influence which slavery, together with the anarchy that succeeded it, exercised upon a people who never enjoyed the advantages of civilisation or the restraints which a century or two of education induce a community to impose upon themselves. To return, however, to the practical question which we are now discussing, it is only reasonable that the Haytians should look with apprehension upon the probable advent of the Americans as the ruling authority in the neighbouring Republic. After that event has been accomplished, their independence, which even the most perfidious of their rulers have always jealously guarded, will not be worth a year's purchase. The immortal Toussaint L'Overture united the whole island under one Government; under President Boyer also the same flag was acknowledged from Cape Tiburon to Cape Samana; and this rational state of things continued without intermission from 1822 to 1844, when the Dominicans successfully raised the standard of revolt. Since that period the island has been ruled by two separate Governments, although the Haytians have made more than one attempt to subjugate the eastern province. We sympathise as little as Mr. Hazard does with the preposterous endeavours of Souloque and other Haytians to dragoon the Dominicans into an unwilling alliance with the Western Republic; but there ought not to be two opinions as to the extreme desirability of establishing one strong Government, whether it be native or American, throughout the island of St. Domingo.

Mr. Hazard opens his work with a singularly luminous history of the island from the time of its discovery by Columbus, whose name is indissolubly associated with many of the most famous places in the country. He writes with just reprobation of the cruel treatment which the Indians sustained at the hands of their implacable taskmasters. The native population which, when Columbus discovered the island, was estimated at a million, dwindled down in fifteen years to sixty thousand, and again between 1508 and 1514 the number was reduced to fourteen thousand—all that war, excessive labour, and cruel punishments (the two latter inflicted under the system of *repartimentos*), had spared of the original inhabitants. The extinction of the Indians led to the African slave-trade, which, although not originated by Las Casas, was supported by that benevolent priest as a means of saving the residue of the natives from extermination. Charles V. bestowed upon a Flemish favourite a patent, giving him the exclusive right to import four thousand slaves per annum; and this right the business-like Fleming turned into ready money by selling it to some Genoese for twenty-five thousand ducats. If to St. Domingo belongs the infamy of having formed the nursery of the slave-trade, to it also attaches the discredit of having been the cradle of the lawless fraternity of buccaneers or fillibusters who at a later period made St. Christopher's and Tortuga their headquarters. We heartily endorse Mr. Hazard's opinion of these pirates:—

"There was not much of which to be proud amongst any of these 'brothers of the sea' no matter to what nationality they belonged; for though the 'Romance of History' has endeavoured to glorify some of them for their deeds, the candid reader can come to no other conclusion than that the whole were a lot of arrant vagabonds, being thieves and murderers on a large scale, the only point in their favour being that they were all men recklessly brave."

The great vicissitudes of St. Domingo in the old slave epoch, prove that the negroes are not singular in their anarchical or warlike tendencies. Both the Spaniards and the French frequently exhibited the utmost lawlessness towards the mother countries; and for centuries Spaniards, French, and English were continually fighting for supremacy in this distracted island. The curious moralist will find in Mr. Hazard's pages ample materials for wholesome reflection on the predatory and turbulent propensities of these civilised nations. Not less interesting is the outline he gives of the St. Domingo war of independence, which, if disfigured by many acts of cruelty, was also illuminated by the purest examples of patriotism. Let us admit that Dessalines, who succeeded Toussaint, was a monster of cruelty; but let us ever bear in mind the obverse side of the picture. For instance, he has often been denounced for having gibbeted five hundred Frenchmen, but it ought equally to be known that this was an act of retaliation for the massacre by the French general of five hundred negro prisoners. *Lex talionis* will unfortunately continue to be the law of war until that barbarous custom has, by its own extinction, ceased to demoralise human nature.

* *Disciple Life.* By the Rev. D. MACCOLL. (Glasgow: James Maclehose.)

† *Santo Domingo, Past and Present, with a Glance at Hayti.* (London: Sampson Low and Co.)

Of the foreign nations who conspired to make St. Domingo what we see it to-day, Spain is the only one which is apparently incapable of improvement. When Santana's treason (for, in spite of Mr. Hazard's excuses, this man surely deserves to be stigmatised as a traitor) had led to the re-imposition of the Spanish yoke, the mother country showed that she had learned nothing from experience—that, in fact, she was unteachable. A Republican rising was put down by the wholesale murder of prisoners, and Mr. Hazard describes one of the Spanish generals as a man who "had been expelled as "a criminal offender from Spain," and "the "accounts of whose brutality and cruelty are "something frightful." After committing "every atrocity which the human mind can "conceive," the Spaniards were compelled to retire from the island, but not until they had done their utmost to convert it into a howling waste.

Mr. Hazard naturally anticipates that the annexation of St. Domingo will greatly increase the value of property, and that, with the establishment of a Government which is powerful enough to ensure obedience to the law, emigration will be attracted to regions which, it is clear from his picturesque descriptions, are among the loveliest and most fertile in the world. He also attaches great importance to the possession by the United States of the Bay of Samana, a spot particularly adapted by nature to become a great naval station, and to serve as the key of the Gulf of Mexico. With this peculiarly American view of the question we have no concern, and we are indeed quite sure that if the United States fall into the mistake of founding an American Sebastopol on the St. Domingo shore, John Bull will look on with more complacency than he is now disposed to regard similar freaks on his own part. The following extract will give the reader some idea of the feeling of the Dominican people towards the annexation project, and of their general demeanour and bearing when brought into personal contact with the United States Commissioners:—

"All the inhabitants are a fine class of people, free and independent, though of different shades of colour; the majority being the native brown, or creole white. I shall not forget the impression made upon me by the sight of some 600 of these people, who, hearing the United States Commissioners were at St. Domingo city, gathered together from every direction, and marching up from their homes many weary miles, gathered in the great arsenal square, with the flags of the United States and Dominica unfurled at their head. After they had rested from their long and hot march, they were drawn up in a hollow square by the colonel who had charge of them, and a priest (their padre, as they called him), who seemed to have great influence and weight with them, made them a stirring address, amid much enthusiasm, in which he said that they would now, perhaps, have an opportunity of joining a great nation, in which the people were identified with the cause of progress, of intelligence, and of industry; it remained for themselves to say what they would be when that time came, as, if they were possessed of the above qualities of that great nation, they would be equal to any one there. All were equal; there was no distinction of colour, no slavery, no tyranny; nothing but freedom and protection from a strong Government, which would bring peace and order into their beautiful island, and, with their consent, protection to industry and security for property. For himself, he said though he had been a Spaniard, Puerto Rican, Dominican, and always their padre (here the entire multitude with much respect uncovered), he yet hoped to call himself an American. Three cheers were then given for the Dominican banner, and then three more for the American, which were given with a will, when the men broke ranks, and took to the shady side of the wall for rest. I seized hold of the colonel, who was a weather-beaten, swarthy-looking man of medium height, with grizzly moustache, who told me he was about fifty-six years of age, and that he had served in the army forty-six years of that time in various grades; that Baez was his chief, to whom he was devoted, and that he would go just where the President told him. If he (Baez) was for annexation, so was he, and he knew it would be a good thing for Dominica, else Baez wouldn't propose it. This was the most refreshing and frank explanation of views I had met with from any one. Alas! for those earnest people; they know little of 'politics' as understood in the United States. I wandered among these men, asking them questions about their habits, hopes, and experiences; and from all I heard but one sentiment—discontent at the present condition of affairs in the island, and hope for the future, that a connection with the United States would give them peace and security. Most of the people seemed to be poor and badly dressed, but none lacked energy, and all expressed a desire for profitable work, some were asking if the prospect of a railroad through their country would not afford means of gaining money. Although many of these men had marched that day some eighteen or twenty miles through mud and under a hot sun, they contented themselves with a frugal repast of a roasted plantain or bit of jerked beef, their beverage being the water carried in the water-bottles by their sides, many of them with their pet gamecocks carried on their shoulder or under their arm."

It will be seen that some of the Romish priests are disposed to be more cautious:—

"Our conversation with the Vicar-General was very full and entertaining, and his views of annexation very frank. I asked him how he liked the idea of it. He replied, 'At present there is only one Church here, and that is the Roman Catholic; but if annexation comes, there will be others.'

"'Yes,' I replied; 'but then you must remember that you will have ample toleration for your Church.'

"He laughed cynically as he said, 'But I have to tolerate others too.'

"I answered, 'You only have your own Church, with a very small number of members; in the United States your Church is a very powerful one, and has a great number of members. Don't you, therefore, suppose that your numbers will be increased and your church revenues improved by annexation?'

"'Frankly, senor,' said he, 'it really don't make much difference with me either one way or the other. I like Rome better than I do here; it is sometimes so hot for me in summer; but I tell my people when they ask me about it, they must remember that they cannot do with the United States as they did with Spain; *once annexed, they cannot get out.*'"

The great argument in favour of annexation is derived from the fact that the country people will not extend cultivation, or even keep their houses in repair, because they are perpetually liable to have the fruits of their labour destroyed by revolution. This want of security is fatal to all progress; but of course the question remains whether a people who do not possess sufficient self-control to keep the professional disturbers of the public peace in check, can be made more contented or more law-abiding by a foreign occupation. However this question may be answered, there can be no doubt of the great value of Mr. Hazard's work, or of the truthfulness of his bright and vivacious sketches of the people and scenery of St. Domingo. The illustrations also are abundant and excellent.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Life and Labours of the Apostle Paul: a Continuous Narrative for Schools and Bible Classes. By CHARLES MICHIE, M.A. (Blackwood and Sons.) This little book is the result of careful reading, and has the merit of accuracy. It is cheaper than the cheapest edition of Conybeare and Howson's work, and though much slighter and wanting in the description in which that abounds, nevertheless contains much valuable information in the notes. It should be remarked that it is furnished with a map of St. Paul's travels.

Great Events in England's History. By the Author of "Our Country's Story." (London: John Marshall and Co.) *Historical Course for Schools. General Sketch of European History.* By EDWARD A. FREEMAN, D.C.L., late Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. (Macmillan.) We bracket these two books together as both are intended for the use of schools, and both relate to history. In other respects they cannot be compared. The first is the kind of book which is popular in private schools for young ladies, where history too often means a very imperfect acquaintance with a confused set of ancient and doubtful traditions, and strongly pronounced judgments on more modern characters and events. The second work is the first of a series of historical manuals under the general editorship of Dr. Freeman. "In this series it is hoped in time to take "in short histories of all the chief countries of Europe "and America, giving the results of the latest historical "researches in as simple a form as may be." Such are the expectations held out by the preface, and the name of Dr. Freeman is sufficient guarantee for the fulfilment of the promise, and the general accuracy of each work. Any one accustomed to examine or use school books will recognise in this "general sketch of "European history" the essential to good and effective teaching. There is fulness of knowledge which permits of selection and ensures simplicity, with clearness of arrangement; and there is an almost faultless distribution of the matter of the book. Consequently, in less than four hundred pages we have a continuous narrative from the dispersion of the Aryan race down to the last war between France and Germany; and in this narrative there is no confusion, no inequality of the parts, and we need scarcely add no mistakes. It is perhaps the first time that the true account of the Holy Roman Empire, and the formation of the European States, has found its way into a school book. We have no doubt that this series of historical manuals will be extensively used—we are quite sure that this the first issue of the series deserves to be.

The School Etymological Dictionary and Word-book, combining the advantages of an ordinary pronouncing school dictionary and an etymological spelling-book, for use in schools. By the Rev. JAMES STORMONTH. (Blackwood and Sons.) The title sufficiently explains the nature and purpose of this work, and we are able from examination to say that it fulfils its design. It is an abridgment of the author's larger work, of which we spoke with sincere approval on its first appearance.

The aged Guizot is absolutely bringing out another work. The subject is "Monarchy, Imperialism, and Republicanism." This veteran statesman and author entered on his 86th year last October. He has seen three Monarchies, two Empires, and three Republics.

The new issue of the "City Diary and Almanack" (Collingridge), presents a large amount of most useful information respecting the City of London, its officers, institutions, churches, charities, &c., well arranged in a compact form, strongly bound, with good writing and blotting paper.

Gleanings.

The poorest education that teaches self-control is better than the best that neglects it.

A woman who tells fortunes from a tea-cup is not necessarily a sauceress.

It is not considered civil to ask a milkman for a piece of chalk.

It is said of a popular American preacher that "he has wasted enough voice to make two thunderstorms."

The Newport *Mercury*, a weekly paper, established by Franklin in 1758, is the oldest paper in America.

When you detect a wife's unusual affection for her husband, you may expect to see her before long in a new bonnet.

The announcement is made that at Wilton, Connecticut, a man has been discovered who declines an office.

In a cemetery at Newtown, Kansas, thirty-two persons are said to be buried, only one of whom died a natural death.

Why is a man searching for the philosopher's stone like Neptune?—Because he is a sea-king what never did exist.

The following is the latest American style of describing a catastrophe:—"Mrs. Swan, of Cochran, N. Y., lighted her fire with kerosene on Monday, leaving a husband and one child."

The *London Gazette* contains an official notice that Mr. Walter Knotts, of London, "in consequence of the present obnoxious name of his ship, The Devil, being strongly objected to by merchants, underwriters, and others, intends to apply to the Board of Trade for permission to change the name to that of Newsboy.

When Molière, the comic poet, died, the Archbishop of Paris would not let his body be buried in consecrated ground. The king, being informed of this, sent for the archbishop, and expostulated with him about it; but finding the prelate inflexibly obstinate, His Majesty asked "how many feet deep the consecrated ground reached." This question coming by surprise, the archbishop replied, "About eight." "Well," answered the king, "I find there is no getting the better of your scruples; therefore, let his grave be dug twelve feet deep, that's four below your consecrated ground, and let him be buried there."

IRISH BLARNEY.—"What makes your horse so slow?" asked a traveller of his Celtic Jehu. "It is out of respect to the bayutiful sanery, yer honour—he wants ye to see it all. An' thin, he's an intelligent baste, and appreciates good company, an' likes to keep the likes o' ye in beloved ould Ireland as long as he kin."

LADY MEDICAL STUDENTS.—At a meeting on Monday of the managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, it was agreed by a majority to admit lady medical students, already enrolled in the students' register for Scotland, to receive clinical instruction in certain wards of the Infirmary, at separate hours from those when the male students are admitted.

A SCOTCH DEFINITION OF "NOTHING."—At Banchory lately, the parish schoolmaster, out of curiosity, put the question to the scholars, "What is nothing?" A pause ensued until an urchin, whose proclivities for turning a penny were well known among his schoolfellows, got up and replied, "It's when a man asks you to haud his horse, and just says, 'Thank ye.'" The answer has since earned considerable notoriety for the youngster.

HOW HE WAS SILENCED.—At a recent meeting in which there was much religious interest, an old man gave expression to his joy by shouting, and continued it until it began to interrupt the services. Brother H. said to Brother W., "Go, stop that old man's noise." He went to him and spoke a few words, and the shouting man at once became quiet. "Brother H.," asked Brother W., "what did you say to that old man that quieted him so promptly?" Brother W. replied, "*I asked him for a dollar for foreign missions!*"—*Christian Union.*

HAND-SHAKING.—There is nothing more characteristic (said Sydney Smith) then shakes of the hand. I have classified them. There is the high official—the body erect, and a rapid shot shake, near the chin. There is the mortmain—the flat hand introduced into your palm, and hardly conscious of its contiguity. The digital—one finger held out, much used by the high clergy. There is the shakus rusticus—when your hand is seized in an iron grasp, betokening rude health, warm heart, and distance from the metropolis, but producing a strong sense of relief on your part when you find your fingers unbroken. The next to this is the retentive shake—one which beginning with vigour pauses as it were to take breath, but without relinquishing its prey, and before you are aware begins again, till you feel anxious as to the result, and have no shake left in you.

PHYSICAL STATE OF THE SUN.—M. Faye last week read a paper to the Academy of Sciences, in which he endeavoured to draw a line between those theories of the sun which might be considered plausible, and those which should be definitively discarded as worthless. The latter, in his opinion, are the following:—1. That the sun has an inner dark and cold nucleus; 2. That there exists under the photosphere a first envelope of clouds reflecting light; 3. That there are internal eruptions which,

by rendering asunder this first stratum and the atmosphere, produce the spots observed on the solar surface; 4. That there is a vast and powerful atmosphere, similar to ours, beyond the photosphere, with a regular refracting action; 5. That there are formed therein great currents, descending with sufficient force to break through the photosphere so as to cause spots thereon; 6. That the sun has any great currents moving from the poles to the equator and *vice versâ;* 7. That the solar atmosphere is periodically traversed by anything like our trade winds; 8. That it has dark clouds; and 9. That any black scoriæ are floating on the photosphere. The questions M. Faye thinks not sufficiently elucidated for the present are these:—1. The influence of the general rotation of the sun on the gyration of the spots; 2. Why the latter, having considerable duration, are confined to within eight-and-thirty degrees heliocentric latitude; and why there are absolutely none beyond the 51st degree of the same; 3. Why the spots are periodical; and, 4. Why prominences appear in the regions where there are no spots. The points he considers definitively established are chiefly: 1. The structure of the photosphere, such as rice-grains, thatch-work, willow-leaves, &c., denominations commonly given, according to their shape, to the irregularities of the sun's surface; 2. The solar rotation; 3. The production and figure of the spots, their general approach to a circular form, their variability in shape and depth, their heliographic distribution, their motions in longitude and latitude, and gyration of their own; and lastly, 4. The tendency the spots possess to form groups, the reddish colour they have at the bottom, the arrangement of the spots of the same group along solar parallels, and the phenomena of absorption recognised in them by spectral analysis.—*Galignani.*

ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.—Some years since a report of the Children's Aid Society gave an account of a sad event in Brooklyn. A woman had been murdered by her drunken husband, and a kind lady of that city discovered three wretched little children weeping over the corpse—two boys and a girl. They were utterly friendless after the arrest and imprisonment of the father. The two boys were brought to the Newsboys' Lodging-house, in New York, and the girl temporarily sheltered. At length the society sent the two lads to homes in the West, and the girl was adopted by a gentleman of property, near the city. The latter never knew that her adopted father was not her own. The boys have now grown up and acquired property, one being a druggist and the other a farmer. They have been extremely anxious to communicate with their sister, and have been in correspondence with her guardian for some time. During the past week they revisited the city for the first time, very well-educated young men in good circumstances. They visited the Girls' Lodging-house, the Newsboys', and other institutions of the society. The adopted father of their sister consented that they should see her in his office, provided they did not discover their relationship, as she is only fifteen, and he wishes her to suppose herself his daughter, so that her affections might not be weakened for a few years longer. She is to inherit his property. They felt the propriety of this, and have had their interview with her, without discovering their relationship, and then returned well satisfied to the West.—*New York Times.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

BIRTH.

MILLARD—Dec. 19, the wife of the Rev. J. H. Millard, B.A., of Huntingdon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

JAMES—MASON.—Dec. 25, at the Borough Congregational church, Hinckley, by the Rev. J. James, F.S.A., Mr. Joseph White James, of Morley, to Sophia Parker, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Robert Mason, of Leicester House, Hinckley.

WILKINSON—SHARP.—Dec. 25, at Headingley Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. T. B. Goodwin, Mr. Jos. Wilkinson, to Elvira, youngest daughter of the late B. G. Sharp, of Leeds.

HARRIS—HIRST.—Dec. 26, at Benton Park Chapel, Rawden, by the Rev. Henry Tarrant, Mr. Henry O. Harris, to Annie Hirst, youngest daughter of Thomas Carvell, Esq., Horsforth, near Leeds.

HOW TO DYE SILK, WOOL, FEATHERS, RIBBONS, &c., in ten minutes, without soiling the hands. Use Judson's Simple Dyes, eighteen colours, 6d. each, full instructions supplied. Of all chemists. The "Family Herald," Sept. 3, says, "A very slight acquaintance with Judson's Dyes will render their application clear to all."

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Multitudes suffering under a complication of disorders might obtain relief through these healing and purifying remedies, which should be employed without a day's delay. When the weather is variable and colds and influenzas are prevalent, this Ointment, well rubbed upon the throat and chest, gives the greatest ease, and checks all tendency to inflammation in the lungs and other organs. The Pills assist the curative action of the Ointment, inasmuch as they purify the blood and so quicken its circulation that congestion is rendered almost impossible. Holloway's treatment deals most successfully, too, with that very troublesome and often tedious ailment—indigestion, which is the bane of thousands, from over work and fast living—in the present day.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette.*)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£38,084,980	Government Debt.	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	23,084,980
		Silver Bullion	
	£38,084,980		£38,084,980

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Propr'tor's Capit'l	£14,553,000	Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,275,239
Rest	3,192,759		
Public Deposits	10,453,541	Other Securities	18,692,130
Other Deposits	17,036,812	Notes	13,044,900
Seven Day and other Bills	358,034	Gold & Silver Coin	581,877
	£45,594,146		£45,594,146

Dec. 27, 1872. FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Dec. 30.

We have had moderate supplies of wheat during the past week, and the trade has been very steady, with a fair demand at the currencies of this day week for both English and foreign. Flour was in slow request, and unchanged in value. Peas, beans, and Indian corn supported last week's prices. Of barley, malting qualities were unaltered; grinding descriptions, being in larger supply, sold, ex ship, at 6d. to 1s. per qr. decline. The arrivals of oats meet a quiet demand at last week's quotations. Cargoes on the coast are unaltered in value, and are held with firmness at fully late rates.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.		Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—			PEAS—		
Essex and Kent, red	58	67	Grey	32	35
Ditto new	50	58	Maple	37	40
White	58	67	White	36	40
„ new	50	58	Boilers	36	40
Foreign red	59	62	Foreign	37	39
„ white	64	67	RYE—	36	38
BARLEY—			OATS—		
English malting	31	35	English feed	21	26
Chevalier	41	48	„ potato	27	33
Distilling	32	35	Scotch feed	—	—
Foreign	29	51	„ potato	—	—
MALT—			Irish Black	18	21
Pale	66	74	„ White	18	21
Chevalier	—	—	Foreign feed	16	20
Brown	55	60	FLOUR—		
BEANS—			Town made	50	57
Ticks	31	33	Best country households	43	47
Harrow	33	35	Norfolk & Suffolk	40	42
Small	—	—			
Egyptian	32	34			

BREAD, Monday, Dec. 23.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheaten Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d., Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Dec. 30.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week consisted of 2,367 head. In the corresponding week last year we received 4,514; in 1870, 5,059; in 1869, 1,617; and in 1868, 7,116 head. Quietness has been the characteristic of the cattle trade to-day. The supplies of stock have been short; but they have sufficed to satisfy the demand. The show of beasts has been very moderate, scarcely any foreign being on offer. For English breeds the trade has been quiet, and the best Scots have not made more than 5s. 8d. to 5s. 10d. per 8lbs. There has again been a good number of inferior Irish animals on offer, for which irregular rates have been accepted. About 90 Dutch beasts have been offered. From Leicestershire we have received about 800, from Lincolnshire about 200, from Norfolk about 400, other parts of England about 200, Ireland 500, chiefly cows, and from Scotland 108. Although the demand for sheep has not been active, a fair amount of firmness has been apparent, and the best Downs and half-breds have made 6s. 10d. to 7s. per 8lbs. The supplies have been short. Calves, the show of which has been limited, have sold at about late rates. Pigs have been disposed of at previous currencies.

Per 8lbs., to sink the offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	8	to 4	0	Pr. coarse wooled	6	2	6	6
Second quality	4	2	4	8	Prime Southdown	6	8	7	0
Prime large oxen	5	0	5	6	Lge. coarse calves	5	0	5	6
Prime Scots	5	8	5	10	Prime small	5	8	6	4
Coarse inf. sheep	4	2	4	8	Large hogs	3	8	4	6
Second quality	4	10	5	6	Neat sm. porkers	4	8	5	0

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Dec. 30.—The supplies of meat to-day were larger. Trade, under the influence of milder temperature, ruled dull, and prices generally were not supported.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	2	8	to 3	8	Inferior Mutton	3	4	to 4	0
Middling do.	3	8	4	2	Middling do.	4	4	4	8
Prime large do.	4	4	4	8	Prime do.	5	0	5	6
Prime small do.	4	6	5	0	Large pork	3	4	4	0
Veal	5	0	5	6	Small do.	4	4	5	0

PROVISIONS, Monday, Dec. 30.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,717 firkins butter, and 3,215 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 15,493 packages butter, and 278 bales bacon. The butter market, influenced by the very mild weather, has ruled dull, and on some sorts of foreign a considerable reduction in prices has been submitted to. In Irish very little doing. Bacon has sold well, the market closing firm at an advance of 2s. per cwt.

COVENT GARDEN, Tuesday, Dec. 24.—We have had a very fair attendance of buyers for the season, but no alteration has occurred to call for any particular remarks. We have had further large importations of foreign goods to meet the Christmas market. Hothouse grapes and pines continue ample for all inquiries.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 30.—Our market after the Christmas festivities opened with extreme firmness, and a very small supply on offer. A gradual advance has been made during the week of from 5s. to 7s. per cwt., and merchants find it difficult to execute their orders. Old olds attract more attention, and several large parcels have changed hands on speculation. Continental advices quote an advance of 5s. on the Alost markets, Bavarian and Bohemian being active, with very small stocks. Mid and East Kent, 5*l.*, 6*l.*, to 7*l.* 7s.; Weald of Kent, 5*l.*, 5*l.* 12s., to 6*l.* 6s.; Sussex, 5*l.*, 5*l.* 12s., to 6*l.*; Farnham and country, 5*l.* 12s. to 6s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Dec. 30.—There are moderate supplies of English potatoes, which sell steadily at the prices subjoined. Foreign arrivals are large, and the trade for all qualities continues quiet at from 60s. to 125s. per ton. Kent Regents, 185s. to 205s. per ton; Essex Regents, 135s. to 185s.; Kent and Essex rocks, 100s. to 130s. The imports of potatoes into London last week amounted to 268 tons and 765 bags from Brussels, 2,597 bags from Harlingen, 130 tons from Rotterdam, 205 tons from Rouen, 120 tons Louvain, 680 tons and 15,883 bags from Antwerp, 1,273 tons and 742 sacks from Dunkirk, 188 tons Calais, 105 tons Havre, 639 bags Boulogne, and 267 bags from Bremen.

SEED, Monday, Dec. 30.—There is still very little English cloverseed brought forward, choice qualities are held at very high rates. German and French seed was rather dearer for the finest qualities, but sales were not numerous. Trefoil was unaltered in price, fine qualities were held with more firmness. White and brown mustardseeds were steady in price, but with few transactions in either sort. English canaryseed realised as much money, with a steady sale, but foreign samples were dull, although offered on lower terms. Foreign tares were little asked for; small descriptions could be bought at reasonable rates.

WOOL, Monday, Dec. 30.—The wool trade has been in a quiet state, but the tone has been firm. English qualities have not been freely dealt in, and the inquiry for colonial has been restricted. Prices, however, have been well maintained.

OIL, Monday, Dec. 30.—Linseed oil has been firm in value, with a moderate demand. Rape has been quiet. Cocoa-nut, palm, and other oils have sold slowly.

TALLOW, Monday, Dec. 30.—Market inactive. New Y.C. on the spot 44s. 6d., old 42s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow, 42s. 6d., net cash.

COAL, Monday, Dec. 30.—Market firm at last prices. Hettons, 20s. 6d.; Hettons Lyons, 29s. 3d.: Hartleys, 26s. 3d. Ships fresh arrived, 14; ships at sea, 20.

BREAKFAST. — EPPS'S COCOA. — GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast-tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette.* Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Epps's Cacaoine, a thin, refreshing beverage for evening use.

Advertisements.

LONDON HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL,
GREAT ORMOND-STREET.

SPECIAL APPEAL.—The Sixty Beds of this Hospital are now all occupied, and cannot remain so unless the Board of Management receive fresh support. Donations, however small, and Subscriptions, earnestly solicited, and Inspection invited. Bankers: Messrs. Prescott, Grote, and Co., and Union Bank, Argyll-place, W. Total number of Patients treated to end of November, 1872, 103,616.

JOHN R. WARREN, Clerk of the Hospital.

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LOCK-STITCH

FAMILY SEWING MACHINE

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AND

THE GREATEST POPULAR FAVOURITE

Of all Sewing Machines.

TREADLE MACHINE, FROM 6 GUINEAS FOR CASH.

IMPORTANT.

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IT is simple in action, regular in stitch, economical in working, well made, and carefully constructed.

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IT avoids all useless complications, and having but little friction, or wear and tear, is wonderfully durable. Will last a lifetime, and run for years without repairs.

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ITS speed is unequalled. The Treadle Machine will make 1,000 stitches per minute, doing the work of eight or ten hands.

IT has no reciprocating shuttle to complicate or cause difficulty in working, no heavy gearing to tire or weary the feet, and no cog wheels to clog, wear away, or break.

IT has no chain-stitch to ravel out or come undone.

THE great number of attempts to imitate it show that it is worth imitating, and experience proves that the imitations in no way equal the genuine.

PARTICULARS, PROSPECTUSES, &c., POST FREE.

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73, BOLD ST., LIVERPOOL.

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Leeds—41, Commercial Street.
Birmingham—Exchange Buildings, Stephenson's Place.
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Every genuine Machine has the name of the firm "WHEELER & WILSON M'F'G. CO., impressed on the cloth plate, and, in addition, the Trade Mark affixed to the bed plate. As the great reputation of the Wheeler and Wilson has led to the manufacture of a very large number of mitation machines of an inferior quality, we ask our friends to be exceedingly cautious that none of these spurious machines are sold to them for the GENUINE Wheeler and Wilson.

EDUCATION.—Wanted, in a Private Boarding School, where two other Resident Masters are kept, a CLASSICAL MASTER. A Nonconformist preferred. Apply, stating age, references, and remuneration required, to Mr. J. E. Champness, Northgate-street, Ipswich.

SHOP PROPERTY for SALE, producing net £116 4s. per annum, valued for purpose of Mortgage at £1,900. Mortgagees' foreclosed price to an immediate purchaser £1,800. Messrs. Jeffery, Harvey, and Davids, 126, Bishopsgate-street, Cornhill (2488).

FREEHOLD GROUND RENT of £130 per annum amply secured upon well built Property. Price, £2860. Apply to Messrs. Jeffery, Harvey, and Davids, 126, Bishopsgate-street, Cornhill (2399).

WANTED, after CHRISTMAS, a well-educated YOUTH as APPRENTICE to a JEWELLER'S in a fashionable inland Watering Town. For particulars, apply to "X.," Office of Nonconformist.

A BUSINESS GENTLEMAN, residing in Newcastle, and periodically visiting the neighbouring towns, is OPEN to an additional AGENCY.—Apply, by letter, to Box "N," *Chronicle* Office, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A YOUNG LADY desires a RE-ENGAGEMENT as RESIDENT GOVERNESS in a Family. Acquirements, English, French, and German (acquired abroad), and Music.—Address, H. W., Down Lodge, Kenley, Caterham Valley, Surrey.

HOUSEKEEPER.—A LADY of Respectability, of Domesticated Habits and Social Disposition, WISHES for an ENGAGEMENT as HOUSEKEEPER in a family where the General Superintendence of Household Affairs, or other duties involving responsibility and trust, would devolve upon her. Long experience has fitted her for such an engagement. Moderate salary required, and good references given.—P. F. L., Post Office, Leicester.

WINTER RESIDENCE, with all the advantages of English Home comforts and proximity to relatives and friends, at Smedley's Institution, Matlock Bank, near Matlock Bridge Station, Derbyshire, with or without the peculiar Mild Hydropathic Treatment, conducted by W. B. Hunter, M.D.C.M. Glas. The extensive saloons, lofty and well-ventilated bedrooms, all kept at summer temperature night and day, without draughts. Charges moderate.

THOMAS COOPER'S ENGAGEMENTS for the YEAR 1873.

JANUARY.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Lincoln.
18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Hull.
25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Birstall (near Leeds).
FEBRUARY.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Cleckheaton (near Leeds.
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Ossett (near Wakefield).
15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Sheffield.
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Birmingham,
MARCH.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Redditch (Worcestershire).
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Walsall (Staffordshire).
15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Burslem (Staffordshire).
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Longton (Staffordshire).
29, 30, 31, Wolverhampton.
APRIL.—1, 2, 3, 4, Wolverhampton.
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Coventry.
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Lincoln.
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, Leamington.
26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Evesham (Worcestershire).
MAY.—1, 2, Evesham (Worcestershire).
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Worcester.
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Kidderminster (Worcestershire).
17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, Stourbridge (Worcestershire).
24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Dudley (Worcestershire).
29, 30, 31, Lincoln.
JUNE.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Lincoln.
7, 8, 9,10, 11, 12, 13, Kettering, Northamptonshire
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, Hitchin (Herts).
21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, Northamptonshire.
28, 29, 30, Bedford.
JULY.—1, 2, 3, 4, Bedford.
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Diss (Norfolk).
12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Ipswich.
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, Colchester.
26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Halstead (Essex).
AUGUST.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Braintree (Essex).
9, 10,11, 12, 13, London.*
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, Lincoln.
23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, St. Alban's (Herts).
30, 31, London.
SEPTEMBER.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, London.
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Gravesend (Kent).
13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, Chatham (Kent).
20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Canterbury).
27, 28, 29, 30, Ashford (Kent).
OCTOBER.—1, 2, 3, Ashford (Kent).
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Tunbridge Wells.
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Hastings.
18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Lewes (Sussex).
25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Brighton.
NOVEMBER.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, London.
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Cambridge.
15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Norwich.
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Wisbeach (Cambridgeshire).
29, 30, Bourn (Lincolnshire).
DECEMBER.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Bourn (Lincolnshire).
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Spalding (Lincolnshire).
11, 12, Lincoln.
13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Gainsbro' (Lincolnshire).
18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Lincoln.

* During the time I am to be in London, Letters to be addressed to the care of "Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row, E.C."

☞ Letters to be addressed "Thomas Cooper, Lecturer on Christianity," at the town to which I am appointed, as "Birstall, near Leeds;" "Colchester;" "Ashford, Kent," &c.

Also, Letters addressed, at any time, to Mrs. Cooper, 2, Portland-place, St. Mary's-street, Lincoln, will be duly forwarded to me.

Correspondents are requested not to put "Post Office" on their letters to me. T. C.

NORTH LONDON or UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Whilst the cost of provisions and every hospital commodity is increasing, the serious deficiency in public support this year, amounting to nearly £1,900, occasions the Committee much anxiety. CONTRIBUTIONS, &c., will be most thankfully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Edward Enfield, Esq., 19, Chester-terrace, Regent's-park, and at the Hospital.

H. J. KELLY, R.N., Secretary.

CHRISTIANS, MORAL REFORMERS, and POLITICIANS.

Wickedness and vice ought not to be regulated, fostered, and made easy and healthy by Government.

Laws which destroy liberty, corrupt morals, and contradict God's commands, are not unfit for both men and women to know, to denounce, and to oppose.

Such laws have been recently made by Parliament, and are now in full operation in Eighteen Districts in the South of England and Ireland.

All previous laws for the repression of disease have been applied to men and women alike; these apply to women only, though immoral men are equally liable to the same shameful diseases.

Wherever they are in force, every woman and girl who is poor and defenceless is as the mercy of special police, who frequently receive private accusations from vile and profligate men.

A Royal Commission reported of these laws in 1871 that their purpose is "to render prostitution, if not absolutely innocuous, at least much less dangerous." (Sec. 13.)

In other words, their purpose is to enable immoral soldiers and sailors to sin as much as they please, without injury to their health.

So far from any tendency to promote virtue, these laws encourage vice; they aim at keeping men in health by keeping women in slavery and sin.

The Dean of Carlisle (the Very Rev. Francis Close, D.D.) says:—"This is such a specimen of legislation that I for one cannot trust myself to express the indignation and abhorrence with which I regard it."—"I desire mainly to enter my solemn protest, as a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a clergyman of fifty years' standing, against this whole legislative procedure, as based on false, immoral, and unscriptural principles, insulting to religion and virtue."

The Rev. Dr. Guthrie (of Edinburgh) says:—"Under these Acts the grossest outrages may be committed on the peace of our families, and the very persons of virtuous women. This is the price we are to pay that profligates, married or unmarried, may sin with comparative impunity."

The Rev. W. H. Rule, D.D. (Wesleyan Army Chaplain) says:—"I share with you in horror and loathing of this most demoralising piece of covert legislation. . . . As for Women, I saw enough of them to ascertain, on the one hand, that a hospital of the sort now provided for prostitutes for the convenience of the soldiers is the very last thing that will tend to reclaim, and is one of the most effectual methods for debasing yet more and more."

These hateful laws were smuggled through Parliament with the utmost haste and secresy, and they were further screened from public attention by being called "The Contagious Diseases Acts," which closely resembles the title of a law about the Cattle Plague.

These laws contain provisions for compelling women to register themselves as prostitutes, so unfair, harsh, and crafty, that any poor and friendless woman, even if virtuous, is in constant danger of being drawn into the net. Those who are caught are compelled to undergo, at frequent intervals, an indecent, cruel, and revolting personal inspection by a Government doctor. This soon makes them utterly degraded and hardened.

Against this horrible system petitions containing nearly a million and a half of signatures have been presented to the House of Commons alone. The Royal Commission reported in 1871 that these loathsome inspections were not efficacious, and that on moral grounds they ought to be discontinued. Yet they are still going on!

The Government proposed in Feb., 1872, to change the present system for a still more subtle and dangerous one, to be extended over the whole country, striking at women only, and subjecting them to unspeakable degradation, for the supposed benefit of vicious men. Is this fair and just?

The proper way to deal with prostitution is to remove its causes; this may be done in part by reforming the laws relating to Seduction, Bastardy, &c.

But before all other things, the Contagious Diseases Acts must be unconditionally repealed.

Men and Women of every religious or political party, help those who are seeking to benefit our country and to purify our laws! Petition Parliament; write letters to your Representatives; question them when they come among you; refuse your votes if their replies are unsatisfactory; subscribe for the needful expenses; arrange for public meetings; and pray for the blessing of God on all the efforts that are being made to free our country from these wicked laws.

Those who desire further information, or to enrol themselves as active helpers in this good cause, are invited to communicate freely with—

The Northern Counties League for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.
Office—255, Pitsmoor, Sheffield.
Chairman—Edward Backhouse, Sunderland.
Treasurer—Joseph Edmondson, Halifax.
Executive Committee: George Butler, M.A., Liverpool. Frederick Clarke, Newcastle-on-Tyne. George Tatham, Leeds. Hudson Scott, Carlisle. I. Whitwell Wilson, Kendal.
Hon. Sec.—Henry J. Wilson, Sheffield.

Information will also be supplied, if more convenient to persons in other parts of the country, by Mrs. Butler, Hon. Sec. Ladies' National Association, 280, South Hill, Park-road, Liverpool; F. C. Banks, Sec. National Association, 50, Great Marlborough-street, London; or S. J. Ainge, Sec. Birmingham Anti-Contagious Diseases Acts Association, 25, Ann-street, Birmingham.

FIELD-LANE INSTITUTION.

President—The Earl of SHAFTESBURY.
Treasurer—GEORGE MOORE, Esq.

To carry on the following very important operations, the Committee of the above Institution are now greatly NEEDING FUNDS (the Day Schools only being supported by the School Board).

Refuges for Men and Women of character, Domestic Servants' Training Home, Boys' and Girls' Certified Industrial Schools, Evening Ragged-schools, Youths' Institute for boys in employment, very large Bible Schools for Ragged Children, Ragged Church Service for the Homeless Poor, Elder Girls' Industrial Schools, Mother's Sewing Classes, and other ameliorative objects.

These operations benefit over fifteen thousand persons annually. Being entirely dependent upon voluntary support, contributions will be thankfully received by the bankers, Messrs. Barclay, Bevan and Co., Lombard-street; Ransome and Co., Pall Mall East; George Moore, Esq., Bow Churchyard, or by the Hon. Sec., Mr. S. Tawell, 17, Berners-street, W.

REMOVING or WAREHOUSING FURNITURE, &c., application should be made to the BEDFORD PANTECHNICON COMPANY (Limited) for their Prospectus. Removals effected by large railway vans. Estimates free. Advances made if required. Address Manager, 194, Tottenham-court-road, W.C.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

Faculty of Medicine.—The Classes will re-commence on Thursday, January 2, 1873.

Faculties of Arts and Laws (including the Department of the Fine Arts), and of Science.—The Lent Term will commence on Monday, January 6, 1873.

The Schools for Boys between the ages of Seven and Sixteen.—The Lent Term will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 1873.

The Evening Classes for Classics, Modern Languages, Mathematics, &c.—The Lent Term will commence on Monday, January 13, 1873.

Prospectuses of the various departments of the College may be obtained at the Offices of the College on application, either personally or by letter.

The College is close to the Gower-street Station of the Metropolitan Railway, and only a few minutes' walk from the termini of the North-Western, Midland, and Great Northern Railways.

JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.

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EDUCATION for YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by the Misses MIALL.

French, Italian, Latin, and German, Music, Singing, and Drawing, Dancing and Calisthenics, taught exclusively by the Masters assigned to them.

The English studies are under the immediate direction of the Misses Miall and competent Governesses.

The house is large and airy, situated in a high and healthy ocality, surrounded by a good garden.

Terms, with references, forwarded on application.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE, TAUNTON.

Principal—Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH, M.A.
Secretary—Mr. EDWARD BAYLY.

Pupils are prepared for Matriculation at the Universities, or for Commercial pursuits. Terms, 28, 30, and 36 guineas per annum, according to age.

The College REOPENS on FRIDAY, Jan. 24.

Prospectuses forwarded on application.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE, TAUNTON.—SECOND MASTER.—WANTED, a GENTLEMAN to fill the above position. He must be a graduate of one of the English Universities, unmarried, able to teach the subjects required for matriculation at the London University, and with some experience in the management of boys. It is essential that he should be a Nonconformist, and of high moral and religious character.—Applications to be made to the Rev. W. H. Griffith, M.A., Independent College, not later than January 6th.

COLLEGE HOUSE SCHOOL, BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

Conducted by Rev. W. MILNE, M.A., and SONS.

Terms, inclusive, from 30 to 40 Guineas.

SCHOOL will be REOPENED on WEDNESDAY, 22nd January.

Reference to Congregational Ministers in London and the Provinces, and to the Parents of Pupils.

Established nearly 70 Years.

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Terms, 25, 30, and 40 Guineas per annum, according to age and studies. The English, French, German, Latin, and Greek. Premises Commodious; covered playground, baths, cricket-field and tent. Diet best and unlimited. Treatment kind and parental; mild, yet firm discipline maintained by a liberal system of certificates, rewards, and prizes, rendering corporal punishment unnecessary. References to many parents and guardians.

COLLEGE for YOUNG LADIES, EAST-STREET HOUSE, BRIDPORT, DORSET.

This Establishment, conducted on the Continental system, consists of the Upper, Middle, and Preparatory Schools, in which French, German, Italian, Latin, Music, Drawing, Singing, and thorough English are taught.

Bridport is situated at a walking distance from the sea. Prospectuses can be obtained, on application, from the 6th to the 23rd instant, to Principal, 127, Minories, London, E.C.

CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION for GIRLS.—The Friends of any Young Ladies wishing to take the University Examination next DECEMBER are invited to communicate with Miss Mead (Broomfield, Bromley, Kent), in whose house a preparation party is to assemble on the 15th inst. References kindly permitted to Rev. T. Binney and Rev. Dr. Halley.

SOUTH COAST.—ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG GENTLEMEN, PARKSTONE, between Poole and Bournemouth.—Rev. WALTER GILL, aided by competent Masters. The Educational Training in this Establishment is based on the Word of God, and in thorough harmony with the advancing intelligence of the times. Terms moderate. Reference to Parents of Pupils. Parkstone is a singularly Healthy Neighbourhood. School duties will be resumed (D.V.) Friday, January 24th.

GOSBERTON HALL, near SPALDING, formerly Academy, Old Sleaford. Established 1849.
A Christian Home and efficient Middle-Class School.
Principal—Mr. C. BOYER.

Terms from £12 to £14 per Half-year. Reference kindly allowed to the Rev. J. A. Jones, Baptist Minister, Gosberton.

GREENHILL SCHOOL, TENBY.—MR. HENRY GOWARD, M.A., LL.B. (London), and late Professor in Spring Hill College, PREPARES BOYS for University and Civil Service Examinations. Large house and grounds, beautifully situated.—Referee, Rev. R. W. Dale M.A., Birmingham.

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LADIES' SCHOOL, conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by superior English and Foreign Masters.

The Year is divided into Three Terms.

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ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by Mrs. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX,

HEAD MASTER—
RICHARD F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit. and M.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Lond.; Member of the Council of the Philological Society, &c., &c.

VICE-MASTER—
Rev. ROBERT HARLEY, F.R.S., F.R.A.S., Corresponding Member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, Member of the London Mathematical Society formerly Professor of Mathematics and Logic in Airedale College, Bradford, &c.

ASSISTANT MASTERS—
A. H. SCOTT WHITE, Esq., B.A., Priseman in Anglo-Saxon and Early English of Univ. Coll., London.
JAMES H. MURRAY, Esq., F.E.I.S., Member of the Council of the Philological Society, one of the Editors of the Publications of the Early English Text Society, Author of "The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland," &c., &c.
JAMES NETTLESHIP, Esq., B.A., Scholar and Prizeman of Christ's Coll., Camb.; 2nd Class Classical Tripos, 1866.

LADY RESIDENT—Miss COOKE.

LENT TERM will commence THURSDAY, 23rd Jan., 1873.

For Prospectuses and further information, apply to the Head Master, at the School, or to the Secretary, the Rev. R. H. MARTEN, B.A., Lee, S.E.

TETTENHALL COLLEGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

HEAD MASTER.
ALEXANDER WAUGH YOUNG, Esq., M.A., Lond. (Gold Medalist in Classics); late Andrews' Scholar, and First Priseman in Higher Senior Mathematics, of University College, London; Fellow of University College, London.

SECOND MASTER.
JAMES SHAW, Esq., Peel Exhibitioner, Queen's University, Ireland; and First of First Class in Classical Honours at the First B.A. Examination, London University.

ASSISTANT MASTERS.
MARTIN F. SHORT, Esq., B.A., and Priseman of Corp. Christi College, Cambridge, Classics and English Language.
JOSEPH K. BARNES, Esq., English and Chemistry.
HENRY TAYLOR, Esq., English.
HERMANN POMNITZ, Esq., Certificated by the Imperial Prussian Government, and by the University of Paris, Music and Foreign Languages.
ARCHIBALD GUNN, Esq., Student Royal Academy of Arts, London, Drawing.
Resident Lady Matron, Miss BAYLIS.

Applications to Head Master, or to the Hon. Sec., S. DICKINSON, Esq., Wolverhampton.

EDUCATION.—CORSHAM SCHOOL, near BATH.

Principal—Mr. CHARLES H. HULLS, assisted by resident English, French, and German Masters.

Pupils prepared for the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations.

The situation of the School House is most healthy; the premises are very extensive; rooms large and airy; playgrounds five acres in extent.

Particular attention is paid to the domestic comfort of the pupils.

Reference to the following ministers and gentlemen is kindly permitted:—
Rev. Dr. Brock, Hampstead, N.W.
" W. Brock, Jun., Hampstead, N.W.
" John Matheson, M.A., Hampstead, N.W.
A. Angus Croll, Esq., Roehampton, Surrey.
James Harvey, Esq., Mount-grove, Hampstead.
Samuel Baylis, Esq., Her Majesty's Customs.
James Anderson, Esq., Frognal, Hampstead.
Benjamin A. Lyon, Esq, Montague-grove, Hampstead.
S. R. Pattison, Esq., 50, Lombard-street.

Prospectus with View on application.

NEXT TERM commences JANUARY 28th.

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM, LONDON.

PRINCIPALS—Mrs. TODD and Rev. J. W. TODD, D.D.

PROFESSORS.

English Literature	Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR.
Botany	Prof. BENTLEY, King's Coll.
French Language	Dr. MANDROU.
German Language	Dr. GERNER.
Italian Language	Signor SUINO.
English History	Dr. KEMSHEAD, Dulwich Col.
Globes and Natural Science	E. H. WEST, M.A.
Music—Theory, &c. ...	JOHN BLOCKLEY, Esq.
Piano and Harmonium ...	Herr LOUIS DIEHL.
Singing and Organ	H. W. MONK, Esq., King's Col.
Drawing and Painting ...	R. W. BUSS, Esq.
Geology and Biblical Studies	Rev. J. W. TODD, D.D., F.G.S

Terms and Particulars on application.

HIGHBURY HOUSE SCHOOL, ST. LEONARD'S-ON-SEA.

Head Master—Rev. W. WOODING, B.A.

The School consists of Upper, Middle, and Preparatory Departments, in which Classics, Mathematics, Modern Languages, and thorough English are taught. The junior classes are trained by ladies on the Pestalozzian system.

A new wing and covered Playground have just been added to the premises. The house is supplied with baths, and is well warmed and ventilated in order to secure the health and comfort of delicate boys.

For Prospectus apply to Mrs. Duff or the Head Master.

SCHOOL duties will be RESUMED on JAN. 20th.

THE CASTLE HALL SCHOOL, NORTHAMPTON.

Conducted by Mrs. THORPE (widow of the late Rev. T. M. Thorpe). Assisted by Masters, and French and English Resident Governesses.

The SCHOOL will REOPEN JANUARY 30th.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES' GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals—The Misses HOWARD.

FIRST TERM will begin THURSDAY, JAN. 23rd.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, near HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.

Mr. Verney's Pupils are SOUNDLY INSTRUCTED in all the Branches of a thoroughly Business Education.

The Terms are moderate, inclusive, and proportionate to Age and Requirements.

The premises are extensive, situation healthy, food the best and unlimited.

Numerous References in London and in the Country.

Pupils admitted at any time; apply to Mr. VERNEY.

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The attention of Nonconformist ministers and office-bearers is respectfully called to a circular issued to them by the above Corporation relative to Insurance against Fire of places of worship, school buildings, &c., on specially advantageous terms—*i.e.*, 1s. 6d. per cent. All applications to be addressed to Mr. T. B. Sutton.

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Balance to credit of investing members and depositors 153,753

ADVANCES made on Freehold and Leasehold Securities to members or non-members, repayable by monthly instalments, and any person desirous of purchasing property, or of obtaining an advance on property already in their possession, can have the money from the Society forthwith.

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JAMES HIGHAM, Secretary.

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